Hafa Adai!

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POLL RESULTS

What did you do with your stimulus check?

Went shopping - **11**

Paid bills - **48**

Bank deposit - **19**

All three - **25**

Others - **14**

Sunday, June 1, 2008, 6:40 PM

INSIDE

Obama Backer

Hillary Rodham Clinton suspends her pioneering campaign for the presidency and endorses Barack Obama.

NATION...Page 14

Suicide Blast

A suicide car bomb and another car packed with explosives kill at least six people in Iraq.

WORLD...Page 16

Malibu Challenge

The island's professional bartenders duel each other to make the best cocktail they could come up with using Malibu Rum.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

ON MORE THAN DOUBLE ELECTRIC RATES

'CUC just doing full cost recovery'

GERIATRIC DOG JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Nine-year-and-8-months-old Honey tries to get a sniff of the camera during the PAWS and Beautify CNMI!'s dog show, dubbed as "The Best of the Worst Dog Show," at the CPA Airport Field Saturday. Honey won second place in the "Best Geriatric" category and third for the "Most Like a Movie Star" category.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Antonio Muna said that, except for the Fitial administration, no other administration had the courage to actually implement 100 percent cost recovery for utilities.

Muna

Referring to the newly increased electric rates, Muna said the Fitial administration is focused on fully resolving CUC's problems and is the first one to go with full cost recovery.

"No other administration has ever done

See CUC on Page 2

Bell tries to repeat historic swim

70-year-old swims from Tinian to Saipan today

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Turning 70 today, James H. Bell will attempt to repeat his feat of nearly three decades ago by swimming across the Tinian channel.

In July 1981, Bell marked his retirement from the U.S. Navy by swimming alone from Saipan to Tinian. He now wants to celebrate another milestone in his life—his 70th birthday—by swimming the same waters in the opposite direction.

"I want this adventure to be the beginning of the rest of my life. And what better place to start than where I left off 27 years ago?" he said yesterday.

Bell found his love of the open water in the early 1970s. He was on active duty with the U.S. Navy in Hawaii, and spent much

See BELL on Page 4

James Bell poses for a photo at the *Saipan Tribune* office On Beach Road Garapan yesterday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

America: At the edge of history once again?

By TED ANTHONY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

One day this past January, Mary Kim Titla's parents left their home on the San Carlos Apache Reservation in southeastern Arizona and drove across the desert to Phoenix with a single purpose in mind—getting an up-close glimpse of a long shot named Barack Obama.

With them they brought two things: handmade signs that said "Apaches

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Turning the islands into one big opportunity. **PAGE 5**
Saipan's son continues to demonstrate excellence. **PAGE7**

Local

Increased demand for US passports seen

The Honolulu Passport Agency has urged U.S. nationals and citizens hoping to travel abroad next year to apply for passports now.

Nancy K. Finn, regional director of the Passport Agency, said the amount of time required to obtain a passport is expected to increase significantly. The U.S. Department of State expects to issue over 21 million passports in 2008 and 30 million in 2009.

"We want to encourage U.S. nationals and citizens to apply for their passports now, rather than waiting until they have an emergency, or until next spring when we expect that we will again be extremely busy," Finn said.

Currently, she said, passport processing times are less than four weeks for routine applications and less than two weeks for expedited applications. Travelers who choose to apply now can avoid having to pay the $60 fee for expedited processing.

"If you have family or friends living, studying, or working abroad, or if you are keeping your eyes open for an airfare bargain, we strongly recommend that you maintain a valid passport," Finn reminded travelers in a media statement.

She also noted that those with existing passports must make sure their passports have at least six months validity remaining before the end of their trip. Many airlines and foreign countries do not accept passports with less than six months remaining before expiration.

Finn also announced that the State Department expects to begin issuing passport cards, in addition to passport books, in June, and to be in full production in July.

The passport card will facilitate entry and expedite document processing for U.S. citizens and nationals entering the United States by land or sea from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda. The card may not be used to travel by air.

Finn said there is now great demand for applications particularly from the southern border states.

Official passport requirement information, downloadable application forms, and a list of acceptance facilities are available on the Passport Agency's website at travel.state.gov. Customers may also call the National Passport Information Center at 1-877-487-2778. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Default judgment vs trader voided due to error

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona has set aside the Clerk of Court's default judgment that would have entitled a law firm to its payment of damages against a former client, businessman David Oh.

Manglona struck down the Clerk of Court's signature on O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes law firm's "Proposed Entry of Default And Entry of Default Judgment," which was filed with the court as part of the law firm's petition.

Manglona granted Oh's motion for relief from the Clerk's entry of default and default judgment irregularly posted on Jan. 16, 2007.

The judge allowed the businessman to file no later than June 16, 2008, his proposed answer or other responses to the law firm's lawsuit.

Manglona determined that the court's documents on file and record in this lawsuit, as it existed on Jan. 15, 2007 when O'Connor's law firm presented its request for entry of default and default judgment to the Clerk of Court, already contained a prior appearance by Oh in the case.

The Clerk, therefore, lacked authority at that time to enter the default judgment versus Oh, she said.

"No entry of default was in fact perfected on the docket, but the Deputy Clerk's signature on plaintiff's proposed entry and judgment was made without authority and is ineffective to constitute an entry of default or default judgment," Manglona said.

According to court records, on June 20, 2003, O'Connor's law firm sued Oh for breach of contract and unjust enrichment. The law firm sought $11,433 in general damages.

The law firm personally served the summons and complaint on Oh three days after the case was filed.

Before the 20-day period to file an answer to the complaint expired, counsel for plaintiff and Oh asked to extend the time for the defendant to file an answer to Aug. 15, 2003. The court granted the request.

Three years and five months after the Aug. 15, 2003, deadline, on Jan. 15, 2007, the law firm e-filed a petition for entry of default and default judgment.

The law firm's petition was accompanied by its attorney's declaration attesting that no answer to the complaint had been received.

The law firm's attorney also stated that Oh's counsel had not contacted them to seek another extension to file an answer to the complaint.

The petition's third page had the words "Proposed Entry Of Default And Entry Of Default Judgment" across the top and a blank signature line for the Clerk of the Superior Court.

About 11 months after submitting its petition, the law firm's counsel contacted the Clerk of Court's office to determine if the Clerk had signed and entered the default and default judgment.

The counsel was informed and provided a copy of the signed entry of default and default judgment dated Jan. 16, 2007.

On Jan. 31, 2008, a little over a year after the clerk signed the proposed entry of default and default judgment, the law firm filed a request for immediate issuance of writ of execution against the businessman.

The court set the request for a hearing on Feb. 19, 2008, and ordered the law firm to serve notice of the hearing on Oh.

Oh personally appeared with a translator at the hearing. Based on the facts presented at the hearing, the court ordered him to make monthly payments toward the judgment.

Oh hired a new attorney to defend him in this case. He demanded relief from the Clerk's entry of default, default judgment, and the court's payment order.

The hearing was held on May 12, 2008. Oh appeared through counsel Richard W. Pierce. Lawyer George L. Hasselback appeared for the O'Connor law firm.

The issue presented at the hearing was whether there was a lawful entry of default or default judgment by the Clerk against Oh, entitling the law firm to its payment order in aid of judgment and a writ of execution.

Oh argued, among other things, that pursuant to Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure, the court should vacate the payment order and, if it is determined that a default and default judgment were in fact entered on the docket, they should be vacated.

Oh further challenged the clerk's authority to enter a default judgment in this case.

In particular, Oh argued that the clerk had no authority to enter a default judgment because Mr. Oh had appeared in the proceeding through counsel in August 2003.

Oh filed the motion for relief a year and three months after the clerk signed the proposed entry of default and default judgment, and four months after the law firm's counsel received confirmation that the proposal was actually signed by a Clerk.

In her order issued Thursday, Manglona found Oh's motion as timely.

Manglona found that Oh's motion was timely based on the circumstances surrounding the disputed entry of default in this case, particularly because of the Deputy Clerk's unauthorized and erroneous "approval" of plaintiff's petition.

Manglona also concluded that the Clerk's action of manually signing a proposed entry of default or default judgment and placing it in the court's file is not rendered a legal nullity.

The judge said the basis of its nullity is that neither the proposed entry or default judgment appear on separate documents and neither are separately entered on the docket.

In this case, she said, the Clerk failed to separately enter the requested default against Oh on the Court's civil docket as required by Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure.

"Because the Clerk's authority to issue such judgments is strictly limited, procedural irregularities may render the Clerk's judgment void," the judge pointed out.

Man charged with selling 'ice' near school pleads 'not guilty'

A man who was arrested for allegedly selling methamphetamine or "ice" near a public school has pleaded innocent to the charges.

Guang Jing Chen pleaded not guilty to the charges of three counts of distribution of a controlled substance and one count of distribution of a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a school.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson accepted Chen's plea and set the jury trial for Sept. 22, 2008 at 9am.

Munson remanded the 45-year-old Chinese national to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

According to the indictment, Chen distributed 0.9 grams of "ice" on Aug. 15, 2007; 1.9 grams of "ice" on Aug. 17, 2007; and 4.5 grams of "ice" on Sept. 14, 2007.

On Feb. 5, 2008, the defendant also allegedly distributed .96 grams of "ice" within 1,000 feet of San Antonio Elementary School.

A Drug Enforcement Administration special agent stated in his report that Chen was arrested after he sold $500 worth of 1.5 grams of "ice" to an undercover agent in front of San Antonio Elementary School. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CUC

From Page 1

this. And they could have done that if those [past] administrations had done 100 percent cost rate recovery," the CUC official told the media.

He said the overhaul of power engines could have been done before if past administrations implemented the full cost recovery rates.

"It has to be done now," Muna stressed.

The executive director said CUC has been neglected for the past four to five years.

"A lot of things that I'm saying to you right now about engine conditions, a lot these things have been the case for the last four, five years. So what else is new?" he said.

Muna said the Fitial administration is focused on getting things resolved at CUC by trying to find solutions since the start.

One of the solutions they first did, he said, was to seek a $40 million loan from the Retirement Fund and to get the Commonwealth Development Authority loan forgiven. "You need to get that loan situation with CDA resolved because you can't go and borrow money until you can clean that off the books and not have that liability there," he said.

As for the $40 million Retirement Fund loan, had CUC gotten that money, a lot of the overhauls the utility agency is doing now could have been done in 2006, he said.

He also mentioned the administration's power privatization project as an option, despite knowing that CUC is short on capital.

"So we tried to do that with our privatization of the…what we call the franchising of the utilities…get someone a franchise to produce power here on Saipan, to sell power here on Saipan," he said.

Unfortunately, Muna said, the project encountered problems with the Office of the Public Auditor.

The official said that, although the Fitial administration just inherited all these problems at CUC, it has really been active in finding solutions.

"Unfortunately a lot of the solutions that we put on the table ran into obstacles," he said.

Muna said that Fitial, however, is getting assistance from the Office of the Insular Affairs by securing a potential additional $4 million to help continue with the rehabilitation of the engines.

"We got the alternative energy RFP [request for proposals]. We're looking at temporary power [and] bringing that on board. We're looking at tapping into excess power from the hotels. So we're not sitting idle. We're trying to solve the problems," he added.

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Notorious burglar gets 4 mos. in prison

The Superior Court has imposed a four-month prison term on a notorious burglar who was among a group that burglarized a day care center for electrical wires.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Alfred Obak to one year for criminal trespass, six months for misdemeanor theft, and six months for misdemeanor criminal mischief, all suspended except for four months.

Following the plea agreement, Wiseman gave Obak credit for the time he has already served in prison.

The judge said Obak will be placed on 24 months of probation and required to pay a $500 fine, $25 court costs, plus probation service fee.

He ordered the defendant to pay restitution to the victim, Little Angels Daycare, and perform 140 hours of community service.

Obak, Weider Debengek, Simon Sebuu and a juvenile were charged for burglarizing Little Angels Daycare in Koblerville on April 25, 2007. Electrical wires were stolen from the daycare.

Obak was charged with burglary, theft, and criminal mischief. He entered a plea agreement with the government.

In March 2006, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a one-year prison sentence on Obak for burglarizing an establishment in Garapan and stealing a handbag containing cash and other items.

"Mr. Obak, your criminal career is now officially over," said the judge as he told the defendant that he would be placed on two years of probation and required to pay $500 fine.

Govendo asked Obak to find job and stop burglarizing establishments.

"I hope I won't see you again in court. It's time to grow up," the judge told the then 29-year-old ex-convict.

In August 2005, Obak, a Palauan, was convicted of assault and battery, and disturbing the peace for beating up a man for greeting him and his friend "Merry Christmas" on Dec. 25, 2004, at the Upper Miha housing in Garapan.

Saipan Tribune learned that Obak has an outstanding arrest warrant in the Republic of Palau and had numerous prior convictions mostly on burglary charges in that country. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

AGO opinion: Law bars initiative from being on the ballot this Nov.

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Deputy attorney general Gregory Baka believes that existing law prohibits any initiative petitions from being placed on the ballot for this year's federal election.

A citizen petition to subject the Legislature to the Open Government Act is awaiting review by the Commonwealth Election Commission. Rep. Tina Sablan, who as a private citizen started the petition last year, hopes to get the initiative petition voted upon in the Nov. 4 election, when the Commonwealth picks its first delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

In a letter to acting CEC executive director Julita A. Villagomez, Baka said there is still "a difference of opinion as to whether an initiative petition may properly be placed on this year's ballot, as opposed to waiting for the regular general election" next year.

"My view is that the latter is correct, though this must ultimately be decided by the commission," Baka said.

The Constitution requires that popular initiatives to amend a general law should be placed on the ballot at a "regular general election."

Baka said there is no doubt that the upcoming delegate election is a "general election," but he raised a question as to whether this year's federal election is a "regular" general election. He argued that the Constitution clearly defines a "regular general election" as an election held on the first Saturday in November.

"In my view, under current law, the federal general election is not a 'regular general election,' and hence not currently the proper time to cast ballots on voter initiatives," he said.

He acknowledged, however, that the Legislature may expand the statutory definition of "regular general election" between now and Aug. 6, 2008, which is the deadline for the Office of the Attorney General to certify initiative petitions.

Despite his opinion, Baka asked the Election Commission to act fast in reviewing the signatures affixed to the Open Government Act petition. Although the deadline is Aug. 6, the Election Commission was urged to verify the signatures by Monday, July 7, to give the proponents close to another month to gather more signatures if necessary and still make this year's election.

To be placed on the ballot, an initiative petition must be signed by at least 20 percent of the registered voters. For this year, the threshold is about 2,400 signatures. Sablan has submitted approximately 2,800 signatures.

Since many of the signatures were collected last year, after which many people have moved out of the CNMI, "it is more important than usual to ensure the signers are still registered to vote," Baka said.

While the Open Government Act applies to all other government agencies, the Legislature passed a law in 1994 to exempt itself from the act's provisions. The petition calls for a law re-applying the government transparency law to the Legislature.

Ocampo tops MCS junior high class

Billie Ryman Pensader Ocampo led Mount Carmel School's 8th Grade Graduation on June 7 as the class Valedictorian.

The ceremony, which was held at the Mount Carmel Cathedral, also saw Ocampo receiving the Citizenship Award and Academic Excellence medal.

Ocampo has been a consistent honor student since first grade, is a treasurer of the National Junior Honor Society, and a member of the Junior Mock Trial Team.

In his speech, Ocampo described the occasion as not only the end of their grade school years and the beginning of high school but also the end of childhood and the start of the journey to become young adults.

"As we look back, we have many people to thank. Our parents who have supported us all the way, our teachers who have challenged our minds and prepared us for a brighter future, and our friends who have provided a friendly environment and stuck with us through the good and challenging times. Looking back to the day when we first started middle school, it was hard to imagine what it felt like to be here. However, we have stayed on course and through the past years, we have completed tons of homework and class work. We have dreamed of this day for a while, and now, here we stand at the end of our eighth grade year.

Ocampo's parents are Marida Pensader and Roman Ocampo, and his only brother, Justin Ocampo, is an incoming second grader at Mount Carmel.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Billie Ryman Pensader Ocampo shows off the awards he received as class Valedictorian.

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BELL

From Page 1

of his leisure time snorkeling or scuba diving.

His military job next brought him to Guam, where he would undertake his first major swimming "project." Every Saturday beginning in the early part of 1980, he swam four to eight miles around the island's shoreline. Before the year ended, he had swum all around the island.

Bell said his Guam adventure was miraculous. "Completing it was more than a test of endurance. There were so much danger, so many things about the shoreline of the Guam reef that made it almost impossible," he said.

But the danger only fueled his desire for adventure. In April 1981, he took leave from the Navy to swim the Tinian channel. The military initially approved his request for time off, but withdrew its permission after learning of Bell's plan to swim the channel alone. At the time, Bell was only a few months away from retirement. He decided to wait.

His chance came on July 2, 1981, his second day as a civilian. Bell braved the choppy waters between Saipan and Tinian with little clue about the surf and tides, much less a clear strategy for getting around them. The only thing he was sure of was his goal, and that is to get to the other side, alive.

"I make it a point of not over-researching things. I like the challenge of the unknown. I prefer figuring things out as I get there," Bell said.

A few things did go wrong. He had planned to swim up the channel and avoid being swept out to the ocean. After swimming for a couple of hours, he ended up miles out in the ocean and had to spend the rest of day swimming back to Tinian. He also had originally projected the swim to take about 12 hours, but at the last minute told people he would be done in six hours. When he did not show up on the Tinian shore at the expected time, a search and rescue mission was launched. Even the press joined the search, with then *Pacific Daily News* stringer Jack Angello renting an aircraft to survey the waters.

Bell was found eventually, and finished what he set out to do. After 12 hours of swimming, he reached a beach not too far from Tinian's North Field.

"My feeling was pure exhilaration. It was not really relief that I was out of danger's way. It was pleasing to know that I had the endurance to do what I did. I felt good about setting a goal and having accomplished it," said Bell.

That great adventure was his last in a very long time. Save for climbing a few mountains in Colorado, Bell had done nothing he would describe as spectacular since the Tinian channel. After retiring from the Navy at age 43, he did not settle in any second career. Instead, he volunteered his service to the Mormon church, tried to earn a master's degree in geology, and held various odd jobs.

As he now enters his eighth decade, however, Bell wants to see if he's still got the resolve that pushed him across the Tinian channel 27 years ago. But his plan goes beyond duplicating his earlier feat. To make his latest effort even more interesting, he will start swimming at 7am today from his previous ending point, and attempt to make it to Saipan—anywhere on Saipan—in eight hours.

Ever the daredevil, he is not checking the tide charts nor calling for a safety escort. "There's more incentive if you know you have to make it because your life is on the line," he said.

Bell expects the strong current and the jellyfish to pose the biggest challenge to his mission. But he would rather keep his eyes on the rewards: a possible next swim across the Torres Strait between Papua New Guinea and Australia, and some serious suntan.

AMERICA

From Page 1

for Obama" and their grandson, Titla's nephew, a third grader. Carefully, they told him why he was there that day.

"This man," they told the little boy, "is going to make history."

Across the republic, we're hearing it everywhere in recent months, weeks and particularly in the days since Barack Obama became the presumptive Democratic nominee: In America, people say, the winds of history are blowing. And many are excited.

Last week, history became a buzzword. Jon Stewart mashed up clips of pundits rhapsodizing about history lessons. "Historic Choice: Obama," trumpeted the Richmond Times-Dispatch, one of many. "Barack Obama enters the history books," enthused CNN anchor Tony Harris.

"This is one of the most significant moments in American history," says Francine Childs, who in July 1956, at 14, sat at a Dairy Queen window every day for 30 days until she was served ice cream at the whites-only counter.

Obama is the most obvious historical figure. But he, John McCain and Hillary Rodham Clinton have each spent months vehemently rejecting the old ways, promising that change is at hand. Each has professed to be the one to maneuver us through what they all call a pivot point in history.

"America, this is our moment," Obama said last week as his winning delegate count became apparent. "This is our time—our time to turn the page on the policies of the past."

But historic moments have everything to do with history—both what has happened in the past, and the instant or era when things change. And each of the major candidates this year is deeply connected with some unhappy aspect of our past, and the urge to move on.

For Barack Obama, it is the American tradition of racial discrimination—and finally hurdling it. For Hillary Rodham Clinton, it has been gender inequity—and the promise of a woman in the White House. For John McCain, it is the legacy of Vietnam.

In American history, certain years—1776, 1865 and 2001 among them—have revealed themselves as obvious crossroads. But not since 1968 have we had a presidential campaign and candidates that summon so many of the fundamental tensions of our history.

So it's worth asking amid the sense of wonder: Is this election year a pivot point? When we talk about making history, can we really ever learn from our yesterdays? Are there lessons from the past for the candidates to carry into the fall campaign and the administration beyond?

"The past is never dead," William Faulkner, one of America's greatest writers, once wrote. "It's not even past."

And so it is in America in 2008. We are riding history's unpredictable currents—no matter how passionately we want to move on, no matter how much control we think we have, no matter how loudly our would-be leaders insist that tomorrow is where our priorities lie.

TRIUMPHANT HISTORY

What is happening in American politics this year is linked, in the oddest of ways, with Commonwealth of Kentucky Death Certificate No. 26469, a bare-bones account of the Nov. 4, 1930, gunshot murder of a 60-year-old "colored" carpenter named Ed Doneghy.

"Ed Doneghy Killed at Louisville Polls," the Chicago Defender, a black newspaper, reported a couple of days later.

Today, the Rev. Martin McMickle, 59, of Shaker Heights, Ohio, cannot stop looking at the smeared ink of the words on that death certificate. When McMickle was doing his family history several months ago, he learned of his link to Doneghy and followed up. He found out that the man was killed for trying to register to vote.

And in August, 78 years after a lethal gunshot at a Kentucky poll felled a man who wanted to vote, Doneghy's relative, Martin McMickle—minister, teacher, civil rights activist—will travel to Denver as a delegate to cast a vote for Obama as the Democratic nominee for president.

A pivot point in history? You bet. And not just because of Obama's triumph, either. To McMickle, this is a historic moment because of Clinton and McCain, too.

On Clinton: "I'm also mindful that my mother, who was born in 1914, was born into a country where women did not have the right to vote."

On McCain: "The whole idea that a person who is a senior citizen but has the energy and the vigor to sustain so far the primary campaign and is on the verge of beginning the general campaign says an awful lot about senior citizens and about when people ought to consider their active life has ended."

"So," McMickle says, "I think there's a wonderful biography in all three of them that can be instructive for the broader public: voting rights for African Americans, voting rights for women in America, and the importance of people continuing to live long beyond the artificial time lines of 65 or 70."

This sense of something special afoot—with Obama emerging last week as the most visible engine, but also including the other firsts of this unusual primary season—is part of why people who have had their own brushes with history feel a sense of it right now.

"We have had candidates who are not well known. We've had candidates who are African-American. We have had women. We have had a public which is disaffected from politics. But we've never had them all together. And in that sense, I think that makes it historic," says Natalie Davis, a political scientist who ran for the U.S. Senate in 1996.

Paul J. Matthews, a retired pharmaceuticals executive in Houston, has seen history and studied it. And he puts Obama's achievement in a very personal context.

In 1967, Matthews was a college student, a black man marching in a green ROTC uniform on a Prairie View A&M campus fired up by the battle for civil rights. He began to wonder about his choice to serve a nation that continued to treat blacks like second-class citizens.

He resolved his doubt by combing through books on military history. There, he found two paragraphs about the famed Buffalo Soldiers—the black regiments formed in the wake of the Civil War, comprised of men determined to show their worth as Americans.

It changed his attitude, and Matthews shipped off to Vietnam two years later. He logged 11 months, 29 days in a medical battalion, where he tagged the bodies of war dead and wrote notification letters to their families back home.

Today, Matthews runs the institution he founded: the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum, a place where people discuss not only blacks' experience in that war but the larger issue—how American blacks over the centuries have served a system that scorned them. And now...

"I'm so elated that starting from a situation where blacks couldn't serve in the military to the possibility of having a black man as commander in chief. ... That's quite a leap," he says. "If that's not a teachable moment, we'll never have one."

That's what history provides, says David Anderson: tangible, valuable tools for us all. It offers reserves of strength for a candidate, particularly one like Obama, who owes it to America to be a man of color rather than downplaying his race, Anderson says.

Anderson, 78, the great-grandson of an Alabama slave, spends his days portraying Frederick Douglass, the iconic 19th-century abolitionist, in Rochester, N.Y. History, insists Anderson, is not a burden. Just the opposite.

"You don't leave it behind," Anderson says. "It is NOT baggage. It is strength and it is essential knowledge. And the more you have of it, the better you can understand who you are and what you're capable of."

After visiting West Africa several years ago, Anderson decided to add something to his name—"Sankofa," a word from the Akan language that translates loosely to "go back and take." Anderson interprets it to mean this: "Retrieve from the past that which you can use to frame the future."

Learning from history, in other words.

UNEASY HISTORY

History, of course, can be a burden. Because the past is not even past. It's still with us.

Most prominently, Barack Obama faces the heritage of three torturous centuries of racial unease and injustice—and continuing racism in some quarters.

For months, Hillary Clinton grappled with the benefits and detriments of being a female front-runner. John McCain faces a nation increasingly obsessed with youth and detached from military culture that wonders whether, at 71, he can govern robustly—and how relevant his Vietnam POW experience is to today's discourse.

More generally, America and its past have always had an uneasy relationship.

We fashion elegies to a simpler, more unified and politically pure past yet often brush our real history aside in the name of an optimistic, forward trajectory that is part of the basic American DNA. We are quick with the word "historic," using it for everything from celebrity trials to new-and-improved snack foods, but rarely do we pause to consider what something historic really is.

The candidates don't always help, either.

"You see history abused so much in the political process," says Seth Masket, who spent part of the Clinton administration answering letters sent to the president and fashioning his written communication—the written equivalent of a speechwriter.

"A lot of these historical metaphors are strained, a lot are inaccurate," says Masket, who now teaches political science at the University of Denver. People's relationship to history, he says, is visceral: "It's an exciting time to be alive, but it's also very scary. People who like the idea of tradition aren't sure what to cling onto anymore."

Then, there is the uncomfortable feeling that no matter what we do, we can't quite shake off the past. Andreas Killen, for example, surveys 2008 and sees 1973, all over again.

The themes in Killen's 2006 book, "1973 Nervous Breakdown: Watergate, Warhol and the Birth of Post-Sixties America," sound familiar today: an unpopular president presiding over a divisive war; a country full of malaise and nervous energy trying to make sense of the civil rights and women's movements; rising gas prices, a faltering economy and an expanding unease about the government and the American message.

A generation later, every single item in that list weighs upon Barack Obama and John McCain.

"There have been many moments over the past few years when I've felt like we were reliving the early 1970s," Killen says.

The heritage of the early 1970s—war, malaise—could hamper the next administration "no matter how much of a mandate for change that president has," Killen says. History isn't always willing to let go.

Sometimes the intricacies of history can be summed up succinctly. Consider Mary Ann Vecchio, 52, who earned a place in the national consciousness at age 14 in 1970 when her cry of anguish during the National Guard shootings at Kent State was captured by a photographer's lens.

Her message to the candidates of 2008 is brief. And potent, too.

"What can they learn from the past?" she says. "Don't repeat it. Don't repeat it."

OPPORTUNITIES FROM HISTORY?

In the end, there is this, too: We are raising a generation less mindful of the American past and its messages than any that came before.

According to the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, students can graduate from the nation's top 50 colleges and universities without ever taking a course in U.S. history. And the National Geographic-Roper Survey of Geographic Literacy found in 2006 that only 37 percent of young Americans can find Iraq on a map. A recent national news broadcast, showing a screen on the famed 1858 debates between Abraham Lincoln and Sen. Stephen Douglas, put up photos of Lincoln and ... Frederick Douglass.

"The Baby Boomers were forced as college students to take Western Civilization or to take American history. This new generation never had to do any of that," says Davis, who teaches undergraduates at Birmingham-Southern College in Alabama.

Turning the islands into one big opportunity

They call the collection of many islands nations in the Pacific as "one market."

They join a new movement of businesses that come here focused on these scattered tiny dots as one very big challenge.

Only a smart business solution like a regional approach is what they believe can justly turn that challenge into one very big opportunity.

They are two well-established law firms: Davis Wright Tremaine (DWT) of the United States and Pacific Legal Network (PLN) in Australia.

In a move they describe as "the best example of regionalism for professional services so far in the Pacific," the two law firms are pooling together expertise and resources in a new venture called DWT Pacific. It is slated to offer "the only unified, trans-Pacific legal and business advisory team in the market".

"With one phone call, companies around the world can now get the help they need across the entire Pacific," said DWT managing partner, Dave Baca, in a press release to announce the venture. "This is new, valuable and, I think, unmatchable.

"We are closely linking our US and Shanghai offices with our partner in Australia. Adding David Cohen, who was the United States representative to the Pacific Community, and the PLN office in the Pacific provides a unified services platform for clients throughout the Pacific," Baca said.

Cohen, who now works for DWT, was formerly head of the US Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs. The American affiliated countries in the Pacific are not new grounds for him.

PLN is headed by John Ridgway, a former president of the Australia/Pacific Business Council and whose firm has been involved in the French, English and US territories in the Pacific.

Together, Ridgway and Cohen alongside DWT senior partner Craig Miller, who recently moved from the U.S. to Sydney, will co-chair DWT Pacific.

"It probably is the best example of regionalism for professional services so far in the Pacific," Ridgway told *Islands Business*.

"It's something similar to the Digicel approach in regionalizing. I mean, that's what we do and there's no other professional service that do that at the moment.

"Frankly, I think that's very sad. But we are very lucky because we have been doing it for some time. Almost everyone who has worked with us has lived and worked in the Pacific, including Cohen.

"Everyone has done something significant in the Pacific so it's not something particularly new. It's really a bigger extension of what we're already doing and in that sense, it's probably much easier for us to do it than anybody else," said Ridgway.

This configuration of PLN affiliates and DWT stakeholders has "a third of the world covered" in that it has the entire Pacific on its radar to link up with potential investment interests from the US, China (DWT was the first US law firm to open an office in Shanghai, according to Cohen), Australia and New Zealand (PLN will open a New Zealand office soon, according to Ridgway).

One immediate opportunity on the agenda is the expansion of US military presence in the Pacific via a major extension to naval bases in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

"That's a very important development from a geo-political perspective and it also has a very significant economic impact not only for Guam but the surrounding region as well," Cohen told *Islands Business*.

"I have always been an advocate in attracting good companies into the region so that the region can develop economically. We don't want bad companies that wouldn't respect islands cultures and would just take money out of the islands. But we do want to attract companies.

"When I was at the Interior, we organized four conferences on business opportunities in the islands where we reached out to good companies from all over the world and allowed the US affiliated islands communities to demonstrate why they would be good places in which to do business.

"A lot of good opportunities came out of that. So I think that was a very important effort because the economic conditions in most of the Pacific are lagging behind much of the rest of the world and it's causing people to leave. It is a real threat to the continuing survival of a lot of islands communities."

During his service within the US government, Cohen was closely involved in the initial drafting of the new immigration law signed last month by President George Bush to allow for the free flow of foreign workers into Guam and CNMI for the military build-up.

The military expansion, according to DWT, is expected to bring "up to US$15 billion of US government defense expenditures to Guam and increase the island's population by more than 25 percent."

Although this is a hotly debated and sensitive issue in Guam and CNMI at the moment as there are implications that local population will be swamped, the build-up is expected to be of particular interest to investors.

"Yes, there's a lot of interest in Guam and it's something that a lot of companies are interested in because of the defense money that will flow in there. But we have a number of contacts that are interested in a number of different opportunities throughout the Pacific and we will continue to work with them," said Cohen.

"The other thing for us is probably trying to get access to Chinese investments into the Pacific," said Ridgway.

"It's a perfect opportunity for Pacific islands countries as well as DWT's Shanghai office. And I think helping manage the existing investment in the region is also important; making sure that clients maintain confidence in the Pacific, even when there are difficulties in some parts.

"It's also important to try to keep the big business names in the Pacific because that helps build external business confidence."

DWT Pacific is also keenly eyeing other potential areas such as an expected takeoff in the Pacific's telecommunication markets, investment interests in alternative energy projects, infrastructure projects and resort developments, to name a few.

Ridgway said the new venture hoped the Pacific's long known challenges in inter-island travel and high communication costs as well as the prevalent dated legal infrastructures would, in time, improve to make the region conducive to investment.

"Obviously, Digicel is helping out in the communication side of things. Virgin and Poly-Blue in Samoa, that has fantastic results for Samoa. And Virgin flying to Fiji and Vanuatu...so things are improving and I think if you look back five years ago on those two important issues—travel and communication—things have moved a long way since then," said Ridgway.

"In another five years time, things would hopefully be much better." ***(Islands Business)***

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State Board of Education

Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Request for Proposal
RFP 08-017

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the **Renovation of Oleai Elementary School's Basketball Court.** Detailed information on the Scope of Work, for a non-refundable fee of $ 4.00, is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 08-017" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than July 1, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 08-017, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination", containing one (1) original and one (1) copy). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl Dela Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **delacruzc@pss.cnmi.mp.**

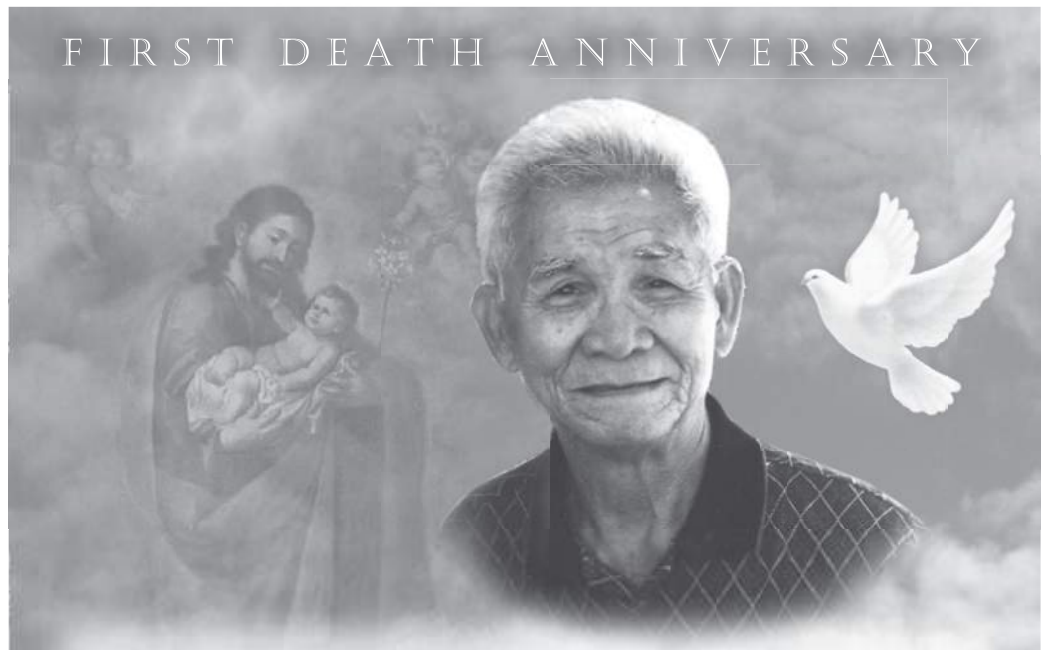
Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid business license.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. Dela Cruz
Acting P & S Officer



We, the family of the late

†DIONICIO CAMACHO TORRES

invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY of our beloved's passing unto eternal life.

Daily Mass will be celebrated at Mount Carmel Cathedral beginning, Monday, June 2 through Monday, June 9 at 6:00 a.m. except on **Sunday, June 8 when Mass will be at 9:00 a.m.**

On the last day, Tuesday, June 10, Eucharistic Mass will be at 6:00 a.m. with breakfast to follow immediately after the Mass at the Joeten Daidai Social Hall.

Your presence and prayers at these daily Masses will be greatly appreciated.
SI YU'US MA'ASE.

Ginen as Merced T. Torres yan Famaguon

Island Snapshots

CONGRATULATIONS! CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Top 10 graduating students of the San Antonio Elementary School pose during the awarding of their certificates on June 2, 2008. Congratulations to Dhale Larsen Posadas, fifth from left, who was ranked fifth, to Top 3 Edinna Cepeda, and Top 10 Alaiza Fe Basto.

FEMA VISIT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

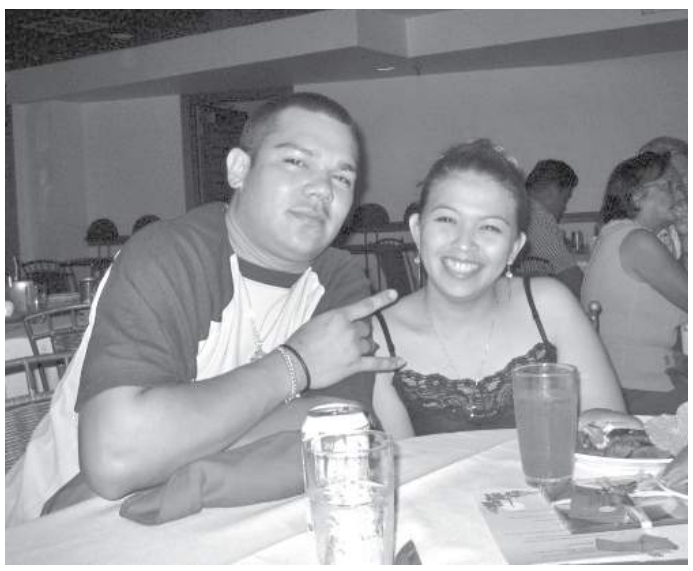
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Nancy Ward, Federal Emergency Management Agency's regional administrator, during a recent visit of a FEMA delegation to the CNMI. FEMA officials met with Fitial, Finance Secretary Eloy Inos, and local Homeland Security Director Patrick Tenorio Wednesday last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dhale Larsen Posadas, center, has her picture taken with San Antonio Elementary School principal Katrina Lizama and Kiana Sablan after the graduation ceremony on June 2, 2008.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Edinna Cepeda and Dhale Larsen Posadas have been best buddies since elementary school. Congratulation to both of you on your achievements! We're so proud of you. Just continue to do your best and never stop believing and reaching for your stars! God bless.... love, from your family!



BELATED GREETINGS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy belated birthday greetings to Madonna Sablan, who celebrated her birthday on June 2, and to Jonathan Hensley, who had his birthday on June 1. Love, from birds in paradise.

'SUGAR EXPRESS'

A child enjoys the "super express" ride during the grand opening of the 62nd Liberation Day celebration Friday at the Garapan Fishing Base. The monthlong celebration will feature cultural presentations, food, crafts, local bands and musicians.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

BONDING CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Raina Buenaflor and nephew Tobi spent quality time at 360 Revolving Restaurant during Raina's send-off party. Raina left for the Philippines on June 7.

STAGEHANDS JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Saipan Mayor's office staff Press Camacho works on building the stage Thursday in preparation for this year's Liberation Day Festival kickoff on Friday, June 6, at the Garapan Fishing Base.

LAZY AFTERNOON

A Japanese mother and her two children spend their afternoon paddling on the waters of Pakpak beach in San Antonio.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Saipan's son continues to demonstrate excellence

Army Cadet Vince Lui Duenas Camacho, currently enrolled with a full scholarship in the Early Commissioning Program at Georgia Military College, has graduated from the U.S. Army's Air Assault School on May 28, 2008. It was only a year ago when he graduated from high school with honors.

Today, he is already the recipient of two U.S. Army certification badges: Parachutist Badge and the Air Assault Badge. He completed his Airborne Certification at the U.S. Army's Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia, in November. He is also training to compete for the German Proficiency Badge this fall.

According to the U.S. Army Air Assault School, "the Air Assault Course is physically and mentally demanding. It requires a great deal of studying to pass the written tests and physical conditioning to pass the physical tests. If you have the stamina, intelligence, and 'gut it out attitude' you can become Air Assault qualified. If you rise to the occasion and successfully complete the Air Assault, Sling load, and Rappelling phases, and the 12-mile foot march, the distinctive right and honor to wear the Air Assault Badge will be yours."

The Air Assault School has three phases: Combat Air Assault, Slingload, and Rappelling. After soldiers make it through Zero Day (rigorous test on their physical abilities), they proceed to the Combat Air Assault Phase where they become proficient in: air assault operations, pathfinder operations, hand and arm signals, aircraft familiarization, aircraft safety, and air-medical evacuation operations.

Afterwards, they move to the Slingload Operations Phase where they train on how to prepare loads for slingload of equipment such as: M101A1 Howitzer, M998 HMMWV, 5,000 lb. or 10,000 lb. Cargo Nets, A-22 Cargo Bag, and Multi-Fuel Blivets. Everything in this phase must be committed to memory, such as the tensile strength of equipment used in slingload operations, lift capabilities of supporting aircraft, and rigging and inspection of prepared loads.

Camacho

Upon successfully passing the intricate tests of the slingload phase, soldiers transition to the Rappel Phase where they perform advanced rappelling from the 50-foot tower wall side (with and without equipment). Next, they rappel off the tower from the skid (open) side. Finally, they rappel from Army helicopters hovering at 100 feet above the ground.

In his final certification test, Camacho completed the tough 12-mile foot march in 2.5 hours with a full 30-pound combat load, helmet, and M-16 rifle. The standard is a 3-hour time limit to complete the march in order to graduate from Air Assault School.

Camacho has already reported to Fort Lewis, WA on June 3 to participate in the Leadership Development and Assessment Course. This rigorous 33-day training evaluates cadets who will be commissioned as second lieutenants the following year on their leadership potential to become Army officers.

Additionally, he is on orders to report to the 82nd Airborne Division's aviation brigade at Fort Bragg, NC to take part in the Cadet Troop Leading Training program, immediately following his training at Fort Lewis.

Camacho will complete all of his training by the end of July before heading back to Georgia Military College for the fall semester.

He is the son of U.S. Army Major Lawrence Fejeran Camacho and Gina Duenas Camacho. His proud grandparents are Luis B. and Ursula F. (deceased) Camacho of San Roque; and Ben C. and Annie DLG. Duenas of Chalan Kiya. ***(PR)***

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

TREE HUGGERS
A huge tree provides cool shade to scores of students, parents and guests during the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School's Cultural & Health Festival at the school grounds in San Roque.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CNMI Scholarship Office announcement

Application deadline for all applicants to the Educational Assistance Program: New, ongoing, or returning is July 1. Deadline for supporting documents is Sept. 30.

Application and supporting Documents deadline for PL 14-37 Honors Scholarship Program is June 30.

For more information call 664-4750 or visit www.cnmischolarship.com. ***(PR)***

Live fire training on Farallon

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam, said that the U.S. military would be conducting live fire training on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla. The schedule dates and time are as follow:

- June 7 – 10 from 6am to 2am
- June 11 – 15 from 6am to 2am

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla training area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(EMO)***

LibDay parade applications now open

The 2008 Liberation Day Steering Committee is now accepting applications for the upcoming 2008 Liberation Day parade. Interested individuals, companies and/or organization may pick up an application at the Marianas Visitors Authority office from Monday to Friday, 8am – 5pm. The deadline to submit all application forms is June 27, 2008, no later than 5pm. For more information, contact Frank Tudela at (670) 664-3200/01 or e-mail via ftudela@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

Library Friends meeting set

The Library Friends of the JoeTen Kiyu Public Library will be meeting on Tuesday, June 10. The meeting will be at 5pm in the central library. The main topic for discussion will be the bookmobile—getting it on the road and keeping it going.

"Please join us in ensuring that we will be able to provide the service of the bookmobile to our community," said Library Friends president Maureen Sebangiol .

If more information is needed, you may contact the library at 235-7332 or Sebangiol at 287-0782. ***(PR)***

NMC English placement test

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting an English placement test next Wednesday, June 11. The test will be conducted in Room A-5 and will run from 2pm to 5pm. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils.

There is a $25 fee for the English Placement Test that must be paid in advance at NMC's Finance Office (Monday-Friday, 9am - 4pm). Students will not be admitted to the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

If you have any questions, call Mark Haag at the Languages & Humanities Dept. at (670) 234-5498 ext. 1733. ***(PR)***

Benito Clan reunion meeting

This is to inform the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Vicente Gogue Taitano and Juan Gogue Taitano—the "Benito Clan"—that the next meeting for the "Benito Clan" will be on Wednesday, June 18, 2008, at the residence of John and Michelle Tagabuel in Pasgua Court, Dandan, at 6pm.

Family members are urged to please attend this important meeting. For more information you may contact Eleanor Aldan Cepeda at 483-6358 or Cecilia Taitano Celis at 285-0607. ***(PR)***

New Call-A-Ride bus chedule

The CNMI Association of Families with Disabilities is informing all Call-A-Ride customers of the new Call-A-Ride bus schedule:

Monday to Saturday: 6am to 9pm

Sunday: Off

The bus fee is $2 one way and $4 for round trip

Contact Willdrow Cabrera or Steve Camacho at cell number 483-9013/9078. ***(PR)***

Vendors sought for Games, tournament

The 2008 Oceania Games will be held on June 21-28, 2008 at the Oleai Sports Complex and the Asia Pacific Little League Tournament will be held on June 25 through July 6, 2008 at the Francisco Palacios Baseball Field.

In consideration of these upcoming special events, interested vendors who wish to sell food, snacks and drinks (no alcoholic beverages allowed) during these games are requested to submit/fax their proposals to the Sports and Recreation Office at 664-2510 no later than Friday, June 13, 2008 for consideration. Concessionaires are limited to only six vendors. ***(PR)***

New schedule for public library

The following is the new schedule of the Joeten Kiyu Public Library:

Monday-CLOSED
Tuesday-9am-5pm
Wednesday-9am-5pm
Thursday-9am-5pm
Friday-9am-5pm
Saturday-9am-5pm
Sunday-CLOSED
Government Holidays-CLOSED

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Please submit your resume with recent picture to lissilc @yahoo.com.

LISS will be holding its 2nd Summer School Program for SY2007-2008 open to all Elementary students.

First Session, June 9 to July 4, 2008
Second Session, July 7 to August 1, 2008

Time: 7:30am to 2:20pm (Mondays thru Fridays)

Other Summer Programs includes school wide:
Educational Weekend Activities • Leadership Program
ESL Program • Science Camp

Said program will focus on academic subjects.
Any interested participants will get to enjoy this program at a very reasonable price.

For more information, please contact Ms. Hazel at 288 2006.

Take advantage of special tuition rates and scholarship program.

House panel sets hearing on Tinian

The House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations will conduct a public hearing on Tinian on June 13 to obtain testimonies on six legislative initiatives to amend the NMI Constitution, a resolution calling for a constitutional convention, and two House bills.

The committee, chaired by Rep. Rosemond B. Santos, will conduct the public hearing from 8am to 2pm, at the Tinian Jr./Sr. High School cafeteria.

The legislations that will be discussed at the hearing are:

■ **H.J.R. 16-3:** "To put the question of calling a Constitutional Convention before the voters of the CNMI".

■ **H.L.I. 16-1:** "To amend Article IV of the Commonwealth Constitution to establish a commission on the judiciary and to establish that written opinions and decisions of the CNMI Superior Court and Supreme Court be issued within one year of submission of the case for opinion or decision".

■ **H.L.I. 16-10:** "To amend Article IV, Section 5 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to authorize the election of the Chief Justice and Presiding Judge by a majority of the Justices and Judges, respectively".

■ **H.L.I. 16-2:** "To amend Article III, Section 11 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marian Islands to authorize the election of an Attorney General".

■ **H.L.I. 16-6:** "To amend Article Section III Section 9 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands to require the adoption of an annual budget".

■ **H.L.I. 16-7:** "To amend Article II, Sections 2, 3, 5, 10, 13, 16, and 17 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands to improve efficiency and accountability in the Legislative Branch of Government".

■ **H.L.I. 16-11:** "To amend Article III, Section 9(a), of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to prohibit the withdrawal of any funds from the General Fund except by appropriations made by law".

■ **H.B. 16-38, CS1:** "To streamline the Government Employment Process the Commonwealth by Repealing and Reenacting the Civil Service Law, Converting certain Government Positions to the Civil Service, and Establishing an Administrative Office of the Courts; and for other purposes".

■ **H.B. 16-86:** "To amend the Commonwealth Entry and Deportation Act (3 CMC § 4301 ET SEQ.) to create the Immigration Category of "Resident Foreign National"; and for other purposes".

Interested members of the public are asked to submit written testimony to the committee on or before June 30, 2008. ***(PR)***

Good Samaritan Hospital reps to visit Guam

GUAM—Good Samaritan Hospital representatives Thomas W. Bauman, physician director, and Jason Ho, M.D., cancer specialist, will visit the island from June 15 through June 21. Baumann and Dr. Ho and will be meeting with other local physicians, health care providers as well as meeting their former and current patients while on island. Medicaid and MIP patients from Guam will also be serviced at this facility.

Good Samaritan Hospital is one of America's 50 Best Hospitals in 2007 and 2008, according to Healthgrades, the nation's leading independent health care ratings company. A great majority of Guam patients have been seen at this hospital over the past 20 years. In addition, the Weingart Guest House where most Guam patients and family members stay is located on the campus of the hospital.

The public is invited to attend and will have an opportunity to ask questions from Good Samaritan Hospital representatives on the following dates and times:

■ Tuesday, June 17 at 7pm at the Dededo Community Center.

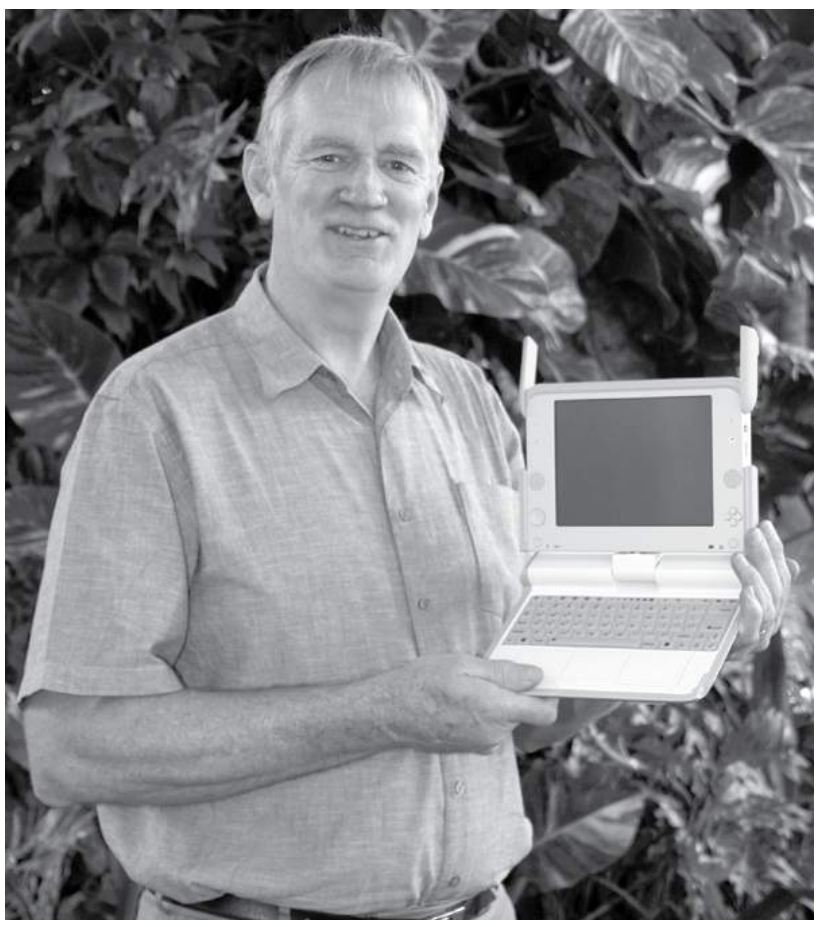
■ Tuesday, June 17 from 2 pm until 5:30pm and Thursday, June 19 from 2pm until 5:30pm at the SDA.

■ Wednesday, June18 from 9am until 12pm and 2pm until 5pm at the PMC Island Clinic for consultation for blood and other cancer related conditions.

For additional information, contact the Guam Medical Referral Office at 475-9350 or 9353.

Thomson spearheads SPC's tech projects

NOUMEA, New Caledonia—Ian Thomson has been appointed by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community to coordinate its work on the Pacific Rural Internet Connectivity System and Oceania One Laptop Per Child projects.



Ian Thomson with an OLPC laptop. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"I am delighted to welcome Ian Thomson to the organization as the new project coordinator," said Dr Jimmie Rodgers, Director-General of SPC. "Ian is a telecommunications engineer with solid experience in working with remote communities, including in broadband technologies, wireline, mobile, wireless and satellite."

When asked how he feels about his appointment, Thomson said: "I feel like Father Christmas! I get to give out laptops to children—who could say no to that? Not only will it help them learn, but it will also help all community members to engage with Internet technology and get connected to the global network. I am also excited about setting up RICS sites around the region like the one launched recently in Gaire, in Papua New Guinea."

The Pacific RICS aims to provide Internet access to rural and remote Pacific communities that are currently not serviced by commercial operators. The technology uses small 1.2 or 1.8 meter satellite dishes and therefore requires low power to operate, which means it can be solar powered. A "network-in-a-box" server provides the networking capability that allows Internet connectivity, a laser printer, WIFI wireless access and computers networked via cables.

Thomson will be establishing the 16 RICS pilot sites across the region. The first site was launched a month ago in Gaire, a rural community located an hour's drive southeast drive of Port Moresby. The other pilot site in Papua New Guinea is in Bougainville, with the remaining sites in Cook Islands, Kiribati (2), Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands (2), Tokelau, Tuvalu, Tonga and Vanuatu.

The Oceania OLPC initiative, another component of Thomson's work for SPC, consists of a pilot roll-out where 5,000 OLPC laptops will be distributed to remote and rural areas in the Pacific, connected through RICS. Pacific governments and private sector stakeholders, as well as non-governmental organizations and other development partners, are being approached to collaborate to come up with the necessary funding to obtain a minimum of 100,000 units, which will cost approximately $200 each.

Thomson says, "We are going to Gaire next week with David Leeming, a project consultant specially hired to help with the roll-out of the Oceania OLPC program. We will start with providing laptops to 30 children in one class and hopefully by the end of the year we will have laptops for every child at the primary school. We consider every RICS site to be an OLPC hub.

"Recently we went to Boston to discuss the OLPC Oceania program at MIT [Massachusetts Institute of Technology]. We also looked at ways other countries, such as Peru, Uruguay and Pakistan, have gone about implementing their roll-out program. It was very inspirational and we got lots of good ideas.

"As a team, we want to help each village start an OLPC project. We call on foundations and other donors to join the project and help us match the donation of 5000 laptops from the MIT lab to kick this project off."

Thomson will be based in Noumea, New Caledonia, and his wife, Sherrin, and three daughters plan to visit as much as possible from their home in New Zealand. ***(SPC)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 09, 1999

Regional airline pushed

Legislators from the Northern Marianas and Palau have asked support from the Asian-Pacific Parliamentarians' Union to push a proposed regional airline for small islands largely affected by the downsizing of existing commercial carriers. Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes, who chairs the group's council meeting being held here, made a strong pitch yesterday for the plan in hopes to sway to its favor powerful member countries such as Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and the Philippines.

Legislators want American Memorial Park back

Local lawmakers are seeking control of the American Memorial Park in a move that will remove federal money in the upkeep and maintenance of the park grounds and facilities. The Senate has passed a measure that will authorize and empower the governor to request the U.S. Department of the Interior to transfer administration of the park to the CNMI government.

APPU delegates: We must ensure financial stability

Despite indication that most Asian economies are in the upswing after a two-year paralysis, lawmakers from the region believe a lot of work still needs to be done to ensure financial security for countries heavily battered by the crisis. They also believe security concerns must be addressed by nations working together, particularly in regional flashpoints that may harm efforts toward economic stability and continued development in the Asia Pacific.

June 09, 2000

Refine business reform proposal

The Senate Committee on Resources, Economic, Development and Program will amend HB 12-39 or the Omnibus Labor and Business Reform Act to fine-tune several provisions that its chair described as "problematic" following the first in a series of public hearings yesterday. REDP chair, Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes, said at the same time that the comprehensive measure will not create jobs for locals as it will provide only easier access for businesses to hire and retain nonresident workers.

Japanese couple robbed inside Hafadai Hotel

Seventy-seven-year-old Seiichi Higa and his wife Hatsu, 74, just came to Saipan last Saturday to visit the island that they have come to love. Little did they know that their brief vacation will turn out to be a nightmare. The Higa couple were part of the Japanese delegation which arrived on the island on June 3 for the CNMI-Okinawa Friendship Memorial gathering. They left Saipan yesterday afternoon bringing with them a sad and frightening experience.

Gov't still weighing PCB lawsuit

It may be premature for the CNMI government to hire at this time the services of private lawyers in order to seek compensation and demand immediate cleanup of the polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination in Tanapag. In response to a call from the House legal counsel to forge an agreement with Texas-based lawyers on the proposed litigation, Attorney General Herbert D. Soll said any deal will have to go through local procurement regulations if the Tenorio administration decides to initiate the class-action lawsuit.

June 09, 2003

Palacios being groomed for CUC chair post

Velma Ann Palacios, who has just been appointed member of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Board of Directors, is being eyed as "most fitting" to assume the highest post on the board. Palacios, 33, who joined the board in early April, currently heads the body's new committee on policy and bylaws. It was Palacios herself who had moved during her first board attendance to have the committee created, saying it is necessary to ensure efficient operations at the CUC.

Illegal clearing of land results in $5K fine

The Coastal Resources Management Office has fined a Guam resident who maintains parcel of land near Agingan Beach after he allegedly failed to conduct corrective actions after being cited earlier this year for removing vegetation near the shoreline without a permit. CRMO director Joaquin D. Salas ordered Puranchand D. Hemlani of Hagatna, Guam, to pay the CNMI Treasury $5,000. Salas also directed Hemlani to implement erosion control measures approved by the Division of Environmental Quality.

CUC attorneys revamped

Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s former chief legal counsel Murphy Peterson has found himself working for the CUC board of directors following a petition for his removal from his post by no less than CUC executive director Lorraine A. Babauta. According to CUC board chair Frank Q. Guerrero, Babauta had issued a memorandum asking for the reassignment of Peterson after some conflict of opinion and "dissatisfaction" on the part of the executive director.

Pacific

A. Samoa hospital only sends 'urgent' cases abroad

AP PHOTO/US NAVY

MISSILE TEST
This image provided by the US Navy shows a modified Standard Missile 2 interceptor launched from the guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie during a Missile Defense Agency test to intercept a short-range ballistic missile target. The missiles intercepted the target approximately 12 miles above the Pacific Ocean 100 miles west of Kauai, Hawaii on the Pacific Missile Range Facility. This was the second successful intercept in two attempts of the sea-based terminal capability and the fourteenth overall successful test of the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense Program.

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (PIR)-Based on current funding, LBJ Medical Center is only able to place patient cases that are urgent and life threatening on the off-island medical referral program, acccording to Patricia Tindall, the LBJ chief executive officer.

There have been continued concerns voiced with both the Fono and the Governor's Office over the off-island medical referral program: some asking why it has been suspended when the Fono has allocated about $3 million in the current fiscal year, and some questioning the selection process of the referral program.

"The off island referral program...is still open. LBJ's finance department has been monitoring the expenses very closely," Tindall explained. "Our physicians have been diligent in their referrals."

Tindall said the off-island referral committee meets every week to discuss cases and on June 5, she met with the committee. "They (the committee) wanted to stress the policies of the program," said Tindall. "We currently have funding to send only level 1 (urgent or life threatening) cases. Physicians, along with their chief of service make recommendations based on the level of the case whether it is brought to the committee."

"Committee members hear the case based on its medical/clinical criteria, and a closed vote is held to approve or not to approve the case for referral," she explained. "If approved, the issues of finding an appropriate accepting physician and hospital, visa and travel documents, and funding for the services are dealt with by administration and project coordinators."

"One very important part of the program, discussed with every patient is the follow up appointments. Patients approved for and receiving off island treatment are required to return to LBJ 10 days after re-entry to American Samoa, and have a follow up appointment with their referring doctor. LBJ needs to have all medical records updated. We cannot guarantee continuity of care if the patient is non-compliant with this requirement. Also, should a patient not appear for follow-up visit, they will exclude themselves for further off island treatment if ever necessary. Lastly, and related to the issue of limited funding, our physicians wanted to stress the importance of preventative health instead of reactive health," Tindall said.

"LBJ's medical staff would like everyone to remember to eat well, exercise, seek preventative medical attention, and have a happy and healthy life," she added.

Tindall told Samoa News recently that in addition to Hawaii and New Zealand, LBJ is also sending patients to St. Luke Medical Center in the Philippines and this saves on cost for patients that qualify for services there.

She said St. Luke is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).

Tesime Kofot wins special Chuuk election

POHNPEI, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM Information Service/PIR)—On May 30, 2008 National Election Director Kimeuo Kimiuo, declared and certified Tesime Kofot winner of the Chuuk Congressional special election for Election District #2.held May 27, 2008.

The election results were sent to President Manny Mori.

Chuuk is one of four islands of the Federated States of Micronesia. The other three are Pohnpei, Yap, and Kosrae.

Tesime Kofot came in the first place with 1, 563 votes. Mark M. Mailo came in second with 1, 443 votes. Third came Roger S. Mori with 1, 260 votes, and fourth was Tos A. Nakayama with 708 votes, and finally, Les D. Aidel who received 36 votes.

The Special Election went very smoothly and orderly, according to Acting Commissioner Dobich, and it was clearly shown from all indications that Tesime Kofot won the election.

New Caledonia announces new holiday

NOUMÉA, New Caledonia (Oceania Flash/PIR)—New Caledonia's government and local French envoy Yves Dassonville jointly announced on Thursday the introduction of a new public holiday, aimed at promoting the notions of "reconciliation" and "common destiny," as enshrined in the French Pacific territory's founding political agreements, the Matignon-Oudinot and the Nouméa Accords.

The Matignon-Oudinot, signed on June 26, 1988, was a major step towards the end of several years of near civil war between pro-French and pro-independence parties and militants in the first half of the 1980s.

It was signed at the time by New Caledonia's two main political figure, pro-independence Kanak leader Jean-Marie Tjibaou and on the part of the pro-French camp, Jacques Lafleur.

Tjibaou was assassinated in 1989 by a hardliner within the pro-independence camp, who was one of the militants who had accused Tjibaou of "betraying" the independence cause defended by the FLNKS (Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front).

The third signature, in 1988, was that of the French Prime minister at the time, Socialist Michel Rocard.

Rocard was in New Caledonia last week to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the pact.

In the late 1990s, the Matignon-Oudinot accord was followed by the Nouméa Accord, signed on May 5, 1998, between Lafleur, Roch Wamytan (at the time the FLNKS leader) and French Socialist Prime minister, Lionel Jospin.

The Nouméa Accord, which is regarded as a sort of blueprint for the French Pacific territory's mid-term future at a twenty-year-horizon, set out the notions of "common destiny" between New Caledonia's ethnic groups.

Marshall Islands Lions Club distributes eyeglasses

MAJURO, Marshall Islands (Yokwe/PIR)—The Lions Club of the Marshall Islands has adopted as its first project a plan to provide prescription eyeglasses absolutely free to residents of the Marshall Islands who cannot afford to pay for them.

On most Saturdays, the members of the Lions Club put on their vests and go to major shopping centers in Majuro to distribute free eyeglasses to people who cannot not afford to purchase them.

The Lions Club is targeting people who are presently working and need glasses to do their jobs.

Many people who make dresses and handicrafts fall into this category as well as many with diabetes. The club also is targeting underprivileged students who are currently enrolled in school and trouble learning due to impaired vision.

The Lions club has a lot of community support and partners to help provide this important assistance to the community. Applicants for free eyeglasses all go to one of the following organizations for screening: WUTMI, KIJLE, Youth to Youth, Majuro Bowl and Majuro Clinic. After screening, applicants are referred to OPTICARE or Eyesight Professionals who are local optometrist who exam and write prescription for the candidates free of charge.

Eyeglasses are provided free to the local Lions Club by the Lions Club International Distribution Center in Australia. The local agent for DHL (Pacific International Inc) has helped to coordinate with its parent company to ship the glasses free from Australia to Majuro. The Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) has also donated to the project.

Each week MBC television station and radio station V7AB have provided advertisements to inform the public of where the free eyeglass distribution will occur. Payless, RRE and Ace Hardware have provided the venue for the distribution of the eyeglasses.

LEGAL NOTICE
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MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust have scheduled a Board of Trustees Regular Meeting for Tuesday, June 10, 2008 beginning at 6:30 PM at the Plumeria Room, Saipan World Resort; Saipan, MP.

The following agenda is hereby established:

I PRELIMINARIES
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes

II CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
- Office Space Matters
- Administrative/Board Matters

III CONSULTANT REPORTS
- Legal Counsel Reports*
  - APLE 501
  - Home Loan Program
- Board Consultant Reports
  - Financial Statements – April 2008
  - Flash Reports – April 2008

IV OLD BUSINESS
V NEW BUSINESS
VI EXECUTIVE SESSION

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

VII MISCELLANEOUS
VIII ADJOURNMENT

* It is anticipated that the following matters will be discussed under Executive Session in its entirety.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body.

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Alvaro A. Santos
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Obama's Middle East

In the heat of the Democratic primary campaign, some on the left were inspired to believe that Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., offered a far-reaching transformation of U.S. foreign policy, "the most sweeping liberal foreign-policy critique we've heard from a serious presidential contender in decades," as one particularly breathless article in the American Prospect put it. Yet, when Obama opened his general election campaign this week with a major speech on Middle East policy, the substantive strategy he outlined was, in many respects, not very much different from that of the Bush administration—or that of Republican Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. That's not a bad thing; rather, it's a demonstration that there is a strong bipartisan consensus about America's vital interests in the Middle East and that the sensible options for defending them are relatively limited.

Liberal notions of a foreign policy shakeup sometimes begin—and end—with a cooling of U.S. support for Israel. But in his speech to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), a lobbying group, delivered hours after he clinched the Democratic nomination, Obama was so forceful in backing the military, economic and territorial interests of the Jewish state that he later had to offer a clarification, pointing out that his endorsement of an "undivided" Jerusalem did not mean he ruled out Israeli-Palestinian negotiations over the final status of the city.

Obama was equally hawkish about Iran. Hedging his much-discussed offer to meet personally with President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad—now the encounter would be with "the appropriate Iranian leader at a time and place of my choosing, if and only if, it can advance the interests of the United States"—Obama fully embraced the Bush administration's view that "the danger from Iran is grave." He said "we will use all elements of American power to pressure Iran," and he pledged, "I will do everything in my power to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon—everything."

What would he do? In essence, Obama promises an improved version of the Bush administration's three-year-old strategy of offering, in conjunction with European allies and Russia, economic and political favors to Iran in exchange for an end to its nuclear program and threatening it with sanctions if it refuses. Obama would have the United States join the Europeans in having direct discussions with Tehran, and perhaps he would agree to bigger incentives. In exchange, he would seek European and U.N. Security Council support for far tougher sanctions than the Bush administration has obtained—such as a ban on Iranian gasoline imports, which is probably the strongest measure available short of war.

The gap in Obama's Middle East policy remains Iraq. Obama has used his opposition to the war to distinguish himself politically from Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., and now from McCain. Yet, in doing so, he has become unreasonably wedded to a year-old proposal to rapidly withdraw all U.S. combat forces from the country—a plan offered when he wrongly believed that the situation would only worsen as long as American troops remained. Remarkably, only a sentence or two about Iraq appeared in Obama's AIPAC speech, and advisers say he may visit the country in coming months. That would offer him the opportunity to outline a strategy based on sustaining the dramatic reduction in violence recorded this year. No, the left wouldn't like it, but it would be in keeping with Obama's pragmatic approach to the rest of the region.

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Let's stop exporting our money

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

According to statistics it seems that about $100,000,000 annually is being exported by our 22,000 nonresident workers and foreign investors. I wonder what effect it has on our economy when we export so much money out instead of keeping that money here. This amount is exported to the senders' home countries. Nothing is wrong with that except see below what effect on the economy it could have should this huge sum of money stay here and circulate throughout our economy.

If our residents had the jobs, the money would stay here and circulate throughout the economy. For example, according to the "multiplier effect" theory as espoused by John Keynes, the famous economist, for each dollar spent locally, it creates several more dollars spending power as it circulates. Local businesses would grow, and bank loans would be more available for people to buy more goods.

When we spend money, that money has value to the economy which is more than what we spend. Money spent on imports is worth less to the local economy than money spent on local produce. Buying local products at locally owned businesses keeps money circulating closer to where we spend it. This creates a "ripple effect" as those businesses and their employees in turn spend our money locally. Instead foreign investors and nonresident workers send most of our money out of town.

If everyone in our community spent a greater percentage locally, the multiplier effect would turn that into big bucks for the local economy. For example, increasing local spending from 50 to 80 percent more that doubles the local effect—from $200 to $500.

When we go to the store to buy a bag of groceries for say $50, the money pays the salaries of the "local employees" and the rent and the utilities, etc. The employees in turn buy their own groceries. They deposit some of their salaries into banks who in turn loan that money to people who need to borrow money for a car or something else. And so on. The cycle continues.

However when the salaries are paid to nonresident workers, most of the money is remitted to their home country. Also consider adding in the loss of the gross revenue tax and other taxes lost because of less spending locally when that large amount of money is remitted abroad.

As an example, Saipan Ice and Water Company is locally owned and operated. It has been processing bottled drinking water for the past 24 years locally. It pays local workers as well as nonresident workers. It invests in its company expansion and keeps its earnings here. There are other businesses similar that could benefit from some sort of protection from outside competition. This has nothing to do with internal competition but how an economy grows when the money earned and spent is circulated locally.

However, the government allows importers to bring in foreign bottled water produced by cheap labor from abroad to compete against this locally produced product with a very small import duty. Where is the benefit except for the importer at the expense of the local industry? How many others are affected by this oversight? How many farmers are discouraged from selling their produce? How many local businesses that produce goods here are hurt by allowing cheap imports without protection for the local producer? How many others would like to produce locally but will not because of this fact? Has anyone made a study?

The importer exports the money that should stay here and circulate several times, adding to the strength of the economy. For every $1 spent at a local business, $.45 is reinvested locally. For every $1 spent at a corporate chain or a foreign owned business only $.15 is reinvested locally. Thus the export of money drains the economy of positive growth.

We must protect local manufacturers and other producers and keep the money here. We must encourage local production of as many products as possible. Of course, this does not apply to all products, but to ones that could be produced here such as fresh produce, poultry, fish and others.

I noticed in this past week's newspaper that Palau has taken steps to protect its local producers of water and other products from cheap imports. The Palau government has added a high import tax to protect its local industries. They have come to realize that it is important to keep the money locally circulated.

Another example of how we further weaken our economy is through the use of an overly generous "tax qualifying certificate." Consider the following application from a foreign company for a tax qualifying certificate request in this week's newspaper:

	Percentage Requested	Period Requested
Business Gross Revenue Tax Abatement	100%	25 years
Excise Tax Abatement	100%	25 years
Alcoholic Beverage Tax Abatement	100%	25 years
Developer Infrastructure Tax Rebate	100%	25 years

While I welcome this company's investment in and its belief in the CNMI, please explain to me how much monetary benefits the CNMI government will receive over the next 25 years. Will our economy grow from such a generous deal? Will many local people be employed at the facilities? And who has done the accounting to see how much the general public will benefit from this deal? What other countries in the world give 25-year total tax free benefits on all profits made from an investment?

Are we considering the fact that we are exporting more money than what we are generating internally? How long can any of us spend more money than we earn? Is it any wonder that the government is broke? Is

See LET's on Page 11

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Learning community

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Tribune

Peter Senge popularized the organizational development category called "the learning organization" in his book, The Fifth Discipline, to describe a body's continual learning mode in every aspect of its management, administration, research and operations.

We remember the MBO, Management by Objectives ethos in the 70s, and the Quality Circles (TQM, Total Quality Management) emphasis in the 80s. Post-WWII schemes followed the factory model of production lines, and, of course, one of the favorite bumper stickers of the 70s was from a book title: "Learn to Plan, Plan to Learn."

When PSS adopted the image of the "learning community," and started groups to begin thinking through the management of change and the innovations required by the demands of the times' new inventions, some of us openly embraced the attempt. Those familiar with MIT Professor Senge's work began toying with the disciplines of systems thinking, personal mastery, mental models, shared vision, and team learning.

Learning organizations adopt this stance of intentionality in the management of change when it becomes obvious that within itself and in its own body, it becomes aware that the contradictions it needed to deal with were internal. It would be like what Pogo articulated succinctly, 'We've met the enemy, and it is us." The consequent and necessary primary step before any infusion of discipline method is injected into the system is acknowledging that PSS not only has monumental learning disabilities, it also wallows in relational dysfunctionality at many levels. We never got humbling awareness, so the effort was at best, an attempt to do things better, or at worst, to be just another compliant Fed's grantee.

PSS lost an able financial officer over a dispute on clocking in at the office. We do not hold ourselves accountable to processes and products, we are entangled in mindless procedures. This came dramatically to me when at our school, I called the office that I would not be able to clock in before the 7:30am school start. My class was already at the playground for their PE, and the instructor was still on his way. I eventually clocked in at 7:42am, but because our rules charges an hour annual leave for every fraction of an hour that one is late, I was docked an hour's worth of pay. Foolish enough to quip that I spend after-school and weekend unpaid presence dealing with classroom needs, I was accurately but bluntly told that "Nobody asked you to work those times."

The discipline of personal mastery is seen more as the frenzy of individual oneupmanship, the gaining of dominance over persons and things rather than mastery of one's knowledge, skills and attitude. There is earnest defensiveness each time it is pointed out that the culture of competition in the Olympic Games sense has since shifted from about being one notch better than another, into being better against one's own last recorded performance. At sixth grade, my students were obsessed with being first at anything that the quality of their work suffers in their desire to be at the head of the line. Sadly, PSS also depends more on outside experts to come and inform/train its personnel, or, at least, entertain us, rather than locate those amongst us who have mastered generic pedagogical processes, programs, projects and products, and can facilitate the learning of the same by others. Stature by status determines the level of respect. Relationships are hierarchical before they are collegial!

Seeing a vision first with the third eye before the front eyes is what constitutes mental model building. This discipline is strongest in those cultures that have a tradition of reflection, meditation, contemplation and prayer. The discipline entails comfort in the management of silence. It is the quiet act before the spirited deed! In one year, of the 26th students in my class, three of them could never be quiet long enough to finish 15 minutes, although that is our scheduled activity first thing each morning.

Our SAT scores reveal our limited skill in listening, a discipline that requires shutting down internal functions so that one can hear the voice and message of another. At BoE meetings, teachers' professional development sessions, or classroom lesson time, there are always packets of people who cannot focus on the task, would be busy chatting away, and even with subdued tones, would always prove disruptive.

Out leadership style is directive and dictatorial. Facilitation of participatory process is in the rhetoric but not in the practice. Our dependence on experts attracts self-promoting egos. In a society, that tolerates a lawmaker's abuse of immunity and where speeches are made that would patently be libelous were it delivered outside the legislative halls, we can begin to understand why talk is cheap, and listening is a lost art.

At our recent Farewell and Recognition Ceremony in San Vicente Elementary, it was evident that the distance between the Commissioner and the representative member of BoE was more than just the length of a few separating chairs. Nor was the felt and noticeable coldness in the air simply a product of our cafetorium air-conditioner. Our esteemed leaders could just as well have been trawling both sides of the Marianas trench! Neither of them are known to be personally nasty and mean, but the PSS culture is not dialogical or engaging in practice; rather, it is manipulative and coercive. So the disciplines of mental model building, shared vision, and team learning, possible among secured selves, does not work well amongst egos that require regular and constant massaging.

The forced retirement of the Commissioner did not come as a surprise. The political currents attendant in the selection of the Commissioner handicapped Dr. Borja's subsequent efforts. The inability of a few to transcend personal egos and focus on the corporate welfare, the constant questioning of expertise, and conversely, the defensiveness about one's qualifications, made this recent event almost inevitable.

A lot of emotional energy and analytical intelligence are being spilled and wasted in raking through the aftermath of this senseless administrative bloodbath. One of my colleagues characterized BoE's act as the work of "old ladies of all ages and gender." But if it is also the occasion that would catalyze PSS to really begin becoming a learning community, where stakeholders engage in dialogue rather than combat, cooperate rather than compete, collaborate rather than dominate, then I am sure David would just be very happy to pay the cost.

Let the learning begin.

Letter to the Editor

Shooting oneself in the foot

It is interesting to note that the CNMI's original request to the DoI for geothermal exploration was for $500,000, and included drilling a test hole on the island of Saipan—based on reports of high temperature in previously drilled holes for water resources—which the DoI apparently has chosen not to fund, at least at this time.

However, as Dr. Thomas Arkle of the Tinian mayor's office related in his series of letters to the editor earlier this year, geothermal is an extremely expensive undertaking. According to the Geothermal Energy Association web site, www.geo-energy.org, "Geothermal power plants are characterized by high capital investment for exploration, drilling wells, and plant installation, but low cost for operation and maintenance." It has been estimated that capital reimbursement and associated interest account for 65 percent of the total cost of geothermal power. They also take years to develop—once it is determined that there is enough water hot enough, of the right type, sufficiently accessible to make further development worthwhile. And of course, transporting that energy from Pagan to Saipan would also be a challenge. It might have made more sense for the DoI to fund the other half of the request, and consider Saipan's viability first.

In the meantime, opportunities to solve the problem are sitting on the CNMI's doorstep—investors willing to build generators of one sort or another—and are being totally ignored. The "mantra" seems to be, "We don't accept unsolicited proposals." But given CUC's history of proposal problems, it would seem time to change positions, and say, "Let's look at these offerings. Maybe we can work out a solution."

For example, one investor is said to have offered to build a nuclear generator on Tinian—AT NO COST—to serve as a model for the new, and far safer, generation of nuclear generators. Military support was, supposedly, also in the offing. But given the lack of interest by the administration, by the legislators, by anyone of influence and voice, that opportunity too may be lost.

Is nuclear really safe now? According to Dr. Arkle, the answer is yes. Not only are the new generators self-enclosed, requiring NO maintenance and NO upkeep, but the nuclear fuel used "in these new plants is quite different from what we knew before. It is no longer a "rod" or "mass" of highly radioactive material giving off radiation. It is, rather, composed of tiny ceramic-coated particles about the size of a BB—about 1 mm in diameter. The "core" of each particle IS a piece of uranium enriched to only about 15percent, compared to over 50 percent in standard reactors. The "core" or "seed" is microscopic and covered by at least two layers of graphite material (absorbent) separated by layers of zirconium (shield) and finally a ceramic outer coat (for hardness). It is nearly indestructible.

"No radiation can escape from the unit.... What does get out is HEAT. The size of the particle and its covering layers determines how much heat. The laws of physics, not man-made controls, determines the level of heat produced. Thus the design of the particle sets the level and it CANNOT exceed this pre-determined limit. That limit is 600 degrees—far below the melting point of any surrounding material such as the holding vessel itself.

"So far, science has tried to destroy the particles—explosions, jet airplane crashing into it, physical battering, etc. The lead scientist for nuclear research at M.I.T. recently stated he could find no way to create a hazard situation with these new particles. That also had the benefit of making them useless to terrorists—even in large quantities. All they [terrorist] could get is heat—useless heat—no dirty bomb, no explosion, not even extortion and no way to repackage it either. The "heat" from these particles lasts about 10 years, depending on overall design, thus the power plants "power module" also lasts about that long before replacement is needed.

"The power module is built as a single, sealed, prefabricated unit—sometimes referred to as a 'battery.' Current designs call for anywhere from 10 to 300 megawatts of power. The average size will fit easily on a flatbed truck for transport and weighs about half as much as one army Abrams tank. It is transported to the site over existing transport routes and "plugged" into the plant—just like a battery. No external or extraordinary shielding or handling is required. When replacement time arrives, the unit is "unplugged" and taken back to the original fabricator where the spent particles are removed. ...The particles would then be stored at a low level underground site pending reclamation. Such "reclaiming" processes are now being developed, with a great deal of success, primarily in France, but also in the U.S. An additional benefit to this type of particle is that, again due to size and level of enrichment, the "half-life" of the nuclear core has been reduced exponentially, thus negating the need for extremely long term isolation."

Unfortunately, it seems much more likely that the powers that be—the governor, the administration, the Legislature—will respond to this opportunity as they are responding to the proposed Marianas monument: shooting themselves in the foot with an irresponsibly childish "not invented here" attitude.

Ruth L. Tighe
Tanapag Village

LET'S

From Page 10

anyone making a study of this situation and how it can be turned around?

We need to understand how money flows in a community. The flow of money has many currents and we must understand them if we are to regain our economy. There is a real danger lurking if we don't stop the export of our money. It is like a wound that doesn't stop bleeding. But let's stop this conversation. How about a short jog down memory lane?

Let me share with you some thoughts from years back. Do you remember when people said:

"I'll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are, it's going to be impossible to buy a week's groceries for $20."

"When I started driving, who would have thought gas would someday cost 50 cents a gallon."

"I never thought I'd see the day when all our kitchen appliances would be electric. They are even making electric typewriters now."

"Why in the world would you want to send your daughter to college? Isn't she going to get married? It would be different if she could be a doctor or a lawyer."

"The drive-in restaurant is convenient in nice weather, but I seriously doubt they will ever catch on."

"Marilyn Monroe is now showing her bra and panties, so apparently there are no standards anymore."

Did you hear the post office is thinking about charging a dime just to mail a letter?"

"Have you seen the new cars coming out next year? It won't be long when $5,000 will only buy a used one."

"If cigarettes keep going up in price, I'm going to quit. A quarter a pack is ridiculous."

"If they raise the minimum wage to $1, nobody will be able to hire outside help at the store."

If you remember when the above were actually believed, you are as old as I am. Have a great day and keep smiling.

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly sunny with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°

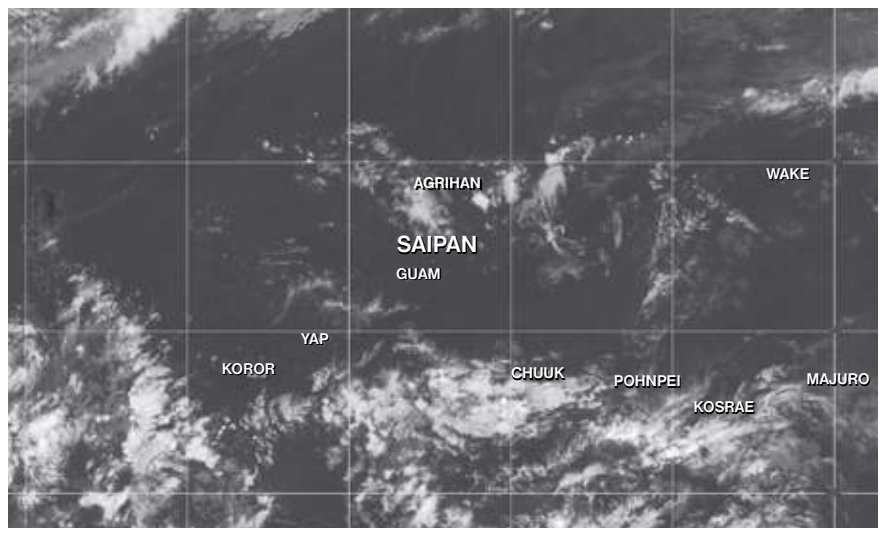
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼75
Palau	Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲88	▼74
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Cloudy	▲85	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲60	▼51
Beijing	Sunny	▲95	▼75
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼79
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲83	▼75
London	Cloudy	▲74	▼61
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲82	▼62
Manila	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Melbourne	Rain	▲61	▼50
Miami	Cloudy	▲86	▼77
New York	Sun with Haze	▲94	▼77
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲80	▼65
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲75	▼56
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲80	▼65
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲75	▼58
Salem	Showers	▲62	▼48
San Francisco	Sunny	▲73	▼51
Seoul	Sunny	▲82	▼58
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲75	▼66
Washington, DC	Hot	▲98	▼76

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

North of Saipan a shear line extends from 17N145E through the northernmost CNMI to 19N155E then continues northeastward as a cold front beyond 25N172E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are within 150 miles of this shear line. A large upper-level low centered near 16N153E is moving slowly westward and enhancing showers near the shear line and helping to produce some upper-level cloud cover. Trade-wind convergence and a weak westward moving surface trough running from EQ135E to 10N135E is aiding a large area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of Palau and through much of Yap and Chuuk States from 2N to 7N between 139E and 153E further to the east. Trade-wind convergence is aiding an area of scattered showers from 4N155E to 6N168E to EQ166E and back to 4N155E. This area is well south of Pohnpei but just south of Kosrae. Finally an area of scattered showers associated with the inter-tropical convergence zone is located in the Marshall Islands just south of Majuro from 2N to 7N between 170E and 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:48AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
6:34AM Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
10:58AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
6:19PM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46AM	6:47 PM
Tuesday	5:46AM	6:47 PM
Wednesday	5:46AM	6:47 PM
Thursday	5:46AM	6:47 PM
Friday	5:46AM	6:48 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:59AM	11:43PM
Tuesday	11:52AM	
Wednesday	12:41PM	12:20AM
Thursday	13:29PM	12:55AM
Friday	2:17PM	1:30AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Manila

CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily via Nagoya

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Manila-Saipan

CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

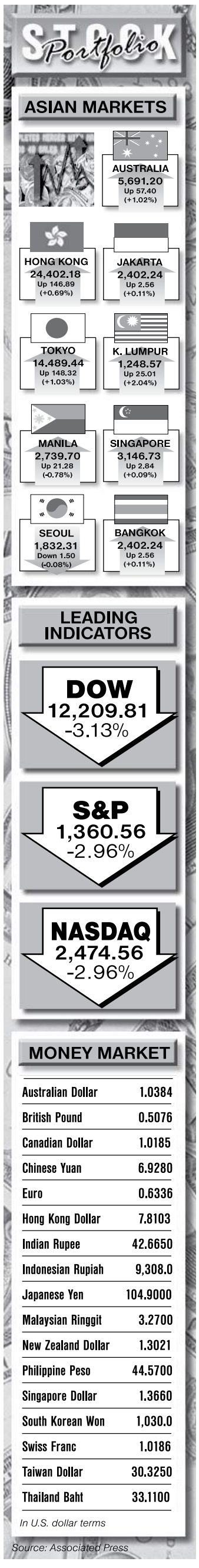
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business



Oil producers urged to boost output

AOMORI, Japan (AP)—Leading energy-consuming nations urged oil producers Saturday to boost their output to counter soaring prices threatening the world economy, while they pledged to develop clean energy technologies and improve efficiency.

The five nations—the United States, China, Japan, India and South Korea—differed, however, on how urgently oil subsidies should be phased out, with Washington backing bold movement while India and China warned of political and economic instability.

Cabinet ministers from the five countries, which account for more than half the world's consumption of energy, agreed that the sharp surge in oil prices was a menace to the world economy, and that more petroleum should be produced to meet rising demand.

"It's not good for producing nations to see the U.S. struggling economically. They depend on us to be a significant engine in world economic activity," U.S. Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman said.

The current president of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, Chakib Khelil, has said that the cartel will make no new decision on production levels until its Sept. 9 meeting in Vienna.

Oil prices made their biggest single-day surge on Friday, soaring $11 to $138.54 on the New York Mercantile Exchange, an 8 percent increase. That followed a $5.50 increase the day before, taking oil futures more than 13 percent higher in just two days.

World oil production has stalled at about 85 million barrels a day since 2005, while global economic growth—boosted by spectacular surges in China and India—has pushed demand to unprecedented levels.

Analysts also have cited the decline of the U.S. dollar, fears about the long-term supply of oil and aggressive speculation as factors in rising prices.

The five consumer countries, meeting before an energy conference of the Group of Eight industrialized nations and Russia on Sunday, argued that the unprecedented prices were against the interests of both producers and consumers, and imposed a "heavy burden" on developing countries.

The ministers also vowed to diversify their sources of energy, invest in alternative and renewable fuels, ramp up cooperation in strategic oil stocks in case of a supply shortage, and improve the quality of data on production and inventories available to markets.

The group diverged somewhat over oil subsidies. The International Energy Agency has estimated that oil subsidies in China, India and the Middle East totaled about $55 billion in 2007.

The United States, which has its own energy subsidies, urged countries such as China to lower its oil supports, which enable domestic consumers to enjoy cheaper gasoline. Subsidies shield consumers from higher prices, meaning consumption does not decline despite rising expenses.

AP

Self-serve regular gasoline is advertised at one-tenth of one cent less than $5.00 per gallon, with mid-grade and premium well over that mark, at a filling station in Arcadia, Calif., Friday, June 6, 2008.

'Flat production behind oil prices'

AOMORI, Japan (AP)—Nations should fight rising oil prices by cutting subsidies and vastly increasing investment in energy, while oil-producing countries need to ramp up output and divulge more information about how much they produce, the U.S. energy secretary said Saturday.

Samuel Bodman, attending two days of meetings in northern Japan among energy chiefs from Group of Eight industrialized countries and other top economies, said the surge in world oil prices was largely a simple problem of supply and demand.

Production has stalled since 2005 at 85 million barrels a day, while economic growth—particularly in China and India—has pushed demand ever higher, Bodman said before a meeting of ministers from the U.S., Japan, South Korea, India and China.

"We're in a difficult position where we have a lid on production and we have increasing demand in the world," he told a small group of reporters, dismissing the effects of speculation and unclear inventory levels and other factors on oil prices.

"I would devoutly hope we ... see a reduction of the use of oil in the world on the one hand, and an increase in the supply so we can see some mitigation in the pressure on price," Bodman said.

Oil prices made their biggest single-day surge on Friday, soaring $11 to $138.54 on the New York Mercantile Exchange, an 8 percent increase. That followed a $5.50 increase the day before, taking oil futures more than 13 percent higher in just two days.

While demand has increased as supply has stalled, analysts have also cited the decline of the U.S. dollar, fears about the long-term supply of oil, and aggressive speculation as factors in rising prices.

Credit crisis still not behind Wall Street

NEW YORK (AP)—The chief executives at the world's biggest financial institutions might have been a bit too optimistic by declaring we may be nearing the end of the global credit crisis.

Morgan Stanley's John Mack said in April it had reached its eighth inning or "maybe top of the ninth" of a baseball game. Goldman Sachs' Lloyd Blankfein compared it to football's "third or fourth quarter." Richard Fuld at Lehman Brothers and Merrill Lynch's John Thain were also more upbeat about the future.

Just as Wall Street started to look safer for investors, another wave of anxiety about the financial industry, inflation and the economy dragged down stocks this past week. Investors continue to worry that the pain might not be over for financial companies—and that the market as a whole will suffer until investment banks release quarterly results later this month.

"Financials have become the kid that brings home a bad report card," said Chris Johnson, president of Johnson Research Group in Cincinnati. "Once they bring home C's and D's, you watch that kid closely week to week. If they bring home A's, you only really care once a quarter."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Expectations low for US-China economic talks

WASHINGTON (AP)—A global credit crisis and record oil prices will be competing with traditional trade and currency issues when top officials from the United States and China gather in Annapolis, Md., later this month. However, there is little expectation the fourth round of these high-level discussions will produce any major breakthroughs. The discussions, given the weighty title of the "Strategic Economic Dialogue" when they were launched in 2006, could in fact be on life support, waiting to be put out of their misery by the next administration. The two sides will certainly have a lot of concerns about the global economy to keep them occupied: soaring oil prices, a severe credit crunch, worries about a recession in the United States.

Stocks fall sharply on surge in oil, jobs data

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street tumbled Friday, taking the Dow Jones industrials down nearly 400 points, on a pair of alarming economic developments: oil prices that shot up by more than $11 a barrel and approached $140 for the first time, and the biggest gain in the government's unemployment reading in more than 20 years. Broader stock indicators also fell sharply Friday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 43.37, or 3.09 percent, to 1,360.68, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 75.38, or 2.96 percent, to 2,474.56. The day's declines were the steepest percentage losses for the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq since Feb. 5 this year.

Biggest jobless jump since '86

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pink slips piled up and jobs disappeared into thin air in May as the nation's unemployment rate zoomed to 5.5 percent in the biggest one-month jump in decades. Wall Street swooned, and the White House said President Bush was considering new proposals to revive the economy. Help-wanted signs are vanishing along with jobs, so the unemployment rate is likely to keep climbing, a government report indicated, underscoring the toll the housing and credit crises are taking on jobseekers, employers and the economy as a whole. Adding to the pain, oil prices soared to a new record high, while the value of the dollar fell. The Dow Jones industrials tumbled almost 400 points.

FTC opens formal probe of Intel chip business

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—Escalating the world's largest computer chip maker's legal woes, the Federal Trade Commission has opened a formal probe into Intel Corp.'s sales tactics, a victory for its much smaller rival, Advanced Micro Devices Inc. Intel disclosed Friday that it has received a subpoena from the FTC for records about Intel's microprocessor sales, which dominate the world market with a roughly 80 percent share. The FTC's two-year investigation had been considered "informal" until that point, and Intel, which is already fighting antitrust charges in the European Union and was fined this week by antitrust regulators in South Korea, said it had been cooperating.

Minivan sales slow, hit by gas prices and image

DETROIT (AP)—Asked recently how the U.S. minivan market has been faring, Nissan's Dominique Thormann had a concise answer. "It collapsed," said Thormann, a senior vice president of Nissan North America. While the rapid decline in pickup and sport utility sales has been grabbing the headlines, minivan sales have also taken a tumble, falling 20 percent in the first five months of this year. And unlike trucks, which could rebound once the construction industry picks up, it's unclear if minivans have a future in the U.S. market or if they're being killed off by crossovers and the stodgy taint of the soccer mom image.

Nation

Clinton suspends campaign, backs Obama

By BETH FOUHY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hillary Rodham Clinton suspended her pioneering campaign for the presidency on Saturday and summoned supporters to use "our energy, our passion, our strength" to put Barack Obama in the White House.

"I endorse him and throw my full support behind him," said the former first lady, delivering the strong affirmation that her one-time rival and other Democratic leaders hoped to hear after a bruising campaign.

Amid tears from her supporters, Clinton issued a call for unity that emphasized the cultural and political milestones that she and Obama, the first black to secure a presidential nomination, represent.

"Children today will grow up taking for granted that an African-American or a woman can, yes, become the president of the United States," she said.

For Clinton and her backers, it was a poignant moment, the end of an extraordinary run that began with an air of inevitability and certain victory. About 18 million people voted for her; it was the closest a woman has come to capturing a nomination.

"Although we weren't able to shatter that highest, hardest glass ceiling this time, thanks to you, it has about 18 million cracks in it and the light is shining through like never before," she said in a speech before cheering supporters packed into the ornate National Building Museum, not far from the White House she longed to occupy, as president this time.

Indeed, her speech repeatedly returned to the new threshold her candidacy had set for women. In primary after primary, her support among women was a solid bloc of her coalition. She noted that she had received the support of women born before women could even vote.

But her main goal was to heal the rift in the party—one that cleaved Democrats in part by class, by gender and by race.

"The way to continue our fight now to accomplish the goals for which we stand is to take our energy, our passion, our strength and do all we can to help elect Barack Obama, the next president of the United States," she said.

AP

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-NY, greets supporters at the National Building Museum in Washington, Saturday, June 7, 2008, as she suspends her campaign for president.

"Today as I suspend my campaign, I congratulate him on the victory he has won and the extraordinary race he has run. I endorse him and throw my full support behind him and I ask of you to join me in working as hard for Barack Obama as you have for me," the New York senator said in her 28-minute address. Loud boos competed with applause.

With that and 13 other mentions of his name, Clinton placed herself solidly behind her Senate colleague from Illinois, who awaits Arizona Sen. John McCain in the general election. "We may have started on separate journeys but today, our paths have merged," Clinton said.

Obama, in a statement from Chicago where he was spending the weekend, declared himself "thrilled and honored" to have Clinton's support.

"I honor her today for the valiant and historic campaign she has run," he said. "She shattered barriers on behalf of my daughters and women everywhere, who now know that there are no limits to their dreams. And she inspired millions with her strength, courage and unyielding commitment to the cause of working Americans."

Obama secured the 2,118 delegates needed to clinch the nomination Tuesday after primaries in South Dakota and Montana.

4 dead, two Fla. deputies are injured

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Three people were fatally shot in a suburban home on Saturday, and a man spotted fleeing the scene was shot and killed after he fired at two sheriff's deputies pursuing him, authorities said.

Deputies had caught up to the suspect about a mile and a half from the house in the Carrollwood area when he shot from his vehicle and wounded the deputies, authorities said. Jorge Orlando Bello Garcia then got out of the truck and attacked one of the deputies before a third officer shot and killed the suspect, authorities said.

Hillsborough County sheriff's spokesman J.D. Callaway said investigators were searching for a motive in the deaths of those shot in the home.

Neighbor John Mullins told The Tampa Tribune he heard shooting from across a privacy fence. His wife, Vernetta Mullins, saw a man flee in a red pickup truck, she said. "After the shooting, he came out with a gun in his hand with a white towel draped over it," she told the newspaper. She then called 911.

The suspect had lived on and off at the house and had a relationship with at least one of the female victims, Callaway said.

The bodies of Gina Marie Lamantia-Bello, 44, who was renting the house and was the wife of the shooter, and Chris Artigas, 45, were found.

Storms bring flooding, tornadoes to Midwest

AP

A young boy is taken from off the roof of his family's minivan and carried to high ground as the overflowing Bluff Creek forced evacuations of the Johnson County homes, Saturday, June 7, 2008 in Indianapolis.

FRANKLIN, Ind. (AP)—Severe storms crippled central Indiana with as much as 10 inches of rain Saturday and spawned tornadoes that ripped up roofs and flipped tractor-trailers in Wisconsin and the Chicago suburbs.

The floods in Indiana threatened dams, inundated highways and forced the Coast Guard to rescue residents from swamped homes. To the northwest, Chicago-area residents ran for cover as tornadoes touched down throughout the region.

Wisconsin had a few tornado injuries, and at least one injury was reported near Chicago. Indiana had been spared any reported deaths or injuries due to flooding.

"At this point, mercifully, we believe all Hoosiers are secure," Gov. Mitch Daniels said at a news conference. "We hope that will continue."

Daniels declared an emergency in 10 counties as the Coast Guard was called in from the Great Lakes to help with flooding that has forced hundreds of people from their homes.

Ninety percent of the small town of Paragon, southwest of Indianapolis, was underwater, State Homeland Security Director Joe Wainscott said.

Water reached the first floor of Johnson Memorial Hospital in Franklin, but no patients had to be moved, county Commissioner Tom Kite said, and cars were submerged up to their windshields in the county government building parking lot.

"We have dams failing in the Prince's Lakes area," threatening the town of Nineveh, about 30 miles south of Indianapolis, Kite said.

Indiana State Police reported evacuations in the Lake Lemon area about 10 miles northeast of Bloomington. Dams near Gold Point were close to collapse, police said.

Near Martinsville, southwest of Indianapolis, Ben Pace watched motorboats rescuing neighbors. The rain didn't appear that bad when he woke up, Pace said, but he then watched water rise 6 to 8 inches in his backyard shed.

"Then I realized that it's worse than it's ever been," he said.

ACROSS THE NATION

6 participants in Gulf of Mexico boat race missing

HOUSTON (AP)—The Coast Guard says it's searching for six people in the Gulf of Mexico who were competing in a boat race. Authorities say a sailboat matching the description of one reported missing was found capsized Saturday with no one in sight. The Coast Guard says communication with the boat was lost around midnight Friday. The boat missed an 8 a.m. radio check. The boat was part of the 40th annual Regata de Amigos. The race covers hundreds of miles from Galveston to Veracruz, Mexico. It started Friday and continues into next week. Petty Officer Renee C. Aiello says the six adults are experienced mariners. Two are safety instructors.

Huckabee helps choking NC candidate with Heimlich

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP)—Former Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee put the squeeze on a politician at the North Carolina Republican Party convention, but in a good way. The former Arkansas governor performed the Heimlich maneuver on Robert Pittenger, Republican candidate for lieutenant governor, at a lunch Saturday. Pittenger said he was laughing when he choked on some food. "I stood up and the governor came over and did the Heimlich and got the relief," Pittenger said. He said the food dislodged when Huckabee applied the trademark Heimlich squeeze to the midsection. Pittenger added, "In fact he called me in the car as I was driving home to make sure I was OK."

Shuttle astronauts move robot arm during first use

HOUSTON (AP)—Astronauts debuted the international space station's newest piece of equipment Saturday during a successful but very limited test. Space shuttle Discovery crew members Akihiko Hoshide and Karen Nyberg moved two of the six joints on the Japanese Kibo lab's robotic arm for the first time, maneuvering them very slightly with a series of commands. Full deployment of the 33-foot arm will be done after Discovery leaves the station next week. However, it won't be used for any actual work until after the launch into orbit next year of the billion-dollar lab's third and final section - a "porch" for exterior experiments - and a second, smaller robotic arm.

Wildfire keeps burning NC wildlife refuge

COLUMBIA, N.C. (AP)—A wildfire that has burned nearly 31,000 acres in eastern North Carolina may smolder for months as it burns decayed vegetation that makes up the soil in the area, a state official said Saturday. The fire, about 40 percent contained, continues to burn in the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, about 70 miles south of Norfolk, Va. The spread of the fire across more than 48 square miles slowed over the past few days. Winds remain light, but it continues to threaten about 80 homes and businesses. No injuries or structure damage have been reported.

Asia

Protesters, police clash in beef rallies

By JAE-SOON CHANG
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

AP
Protesters confront riot police officers as they try to march to Presidential House after a candlelight rally held against U.S. beef imports in downtown Seoul, South Korea, Sunday, June 8, 2008.

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean protesters fought with police, tried to overturn riot-control buses and smashed their windows Sunday amid a deepening political crisis over U.S. beef imports, hours after their president appealed to Washington for help to ease growing public anger.

A pledge from President George W. Bush on Saturday to address health fears over beef appeared to do little to calm the protesters' ire at South Korean President Lee Myung-bak for agreeing to an import deal.

The violence came early Sunday after a crowd estimated by police at about 40,000 rallied Saturday night in central Seoul against the April agreement they say fails to protect against beef potentially tainted with mad cow disease.

The demonstrators attacked police riot buses lined up to barricade streets on a key downtown artery, throwing objects, using ladders to smash windows and trying to overturn the vehicles.

Clashes ensued, with protesters hitting police with sticks and police striking back with riot shields. Some demonstrators were injured and taken away in ambulances. Police also suffered injuries.

Police apprehended 11 people for questioning.

The protests followed a familiar pattern—the main rally being largely peaceful yet turning violent as crowds thinned and remaining protesters confronted police. Violence lasted until after sunrise.

Lee's fledgling government has been battered by daily protests over the April 18 agreement to resume U.S. beef imports - banned for most of the past four and a half years over fears of mad cow disease.

The largest crowd yet - which police estimated at 65,000—rallied Friday night.

Late Saturday, Lee's office said that Bush had pledged to come up with measures to ensure that beef from older cattle - considered at greater risk of mad cow disease—is not exported to South Korea.

Bush made the remark during a phone call with Lee, the Blue House said.

"President Bush said he sufficiently understands South Koreans' concerns and worries," a Blue House statement said. "In this regard, (Bush) pledged to prepare specific measures to make sure that beef from cattle aged 30 months or older is not exported to South Korea."

The White House did not respond to requests for comment on South Korea's statement.

In Washington earlier, White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe said Bush assured Lee that the U.S. government "is cooperating closely with the South Korean government and ready to support American cattle exporters as they reach a mutually acceptable solution with Korean importers on the beef trade."

Lee remains caught between a pledge to his country's most important ally and South Koreans' anger over the agreement.

Protesters claim that Lee ignored their concerns about food safety and gave in to U.S. demands to help ensure passage in Congress of a bilateral free trade deal struck last year.

Myanmar tourism sector reels after cyclone

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—When a taxi carrying two Westerners pulled up this past week at the Shwe Sin hotel at the Chaung Tha beach resort in Myanmar's cyclone-stricken Irrawaddy delta region, cheers rang out from local residents and workers.

The two were congratulated for being the first foreigners to set foot in town since Cyclone Nargis slammed ashore last month, wiping entire villages off the map and killing an estimated 78,000 people.

The disaster, and the military government's "stay-away" attitude toward foreign aid workers and reporters, has scared off tourists, adding to the area's woes.

Residents of Chaung Tha, perched on the western side of the delta, more than 60 miles from the eye of the storm, say no one there was killed or injured and that the hotels were undamaged.

But the fishing village-turned-vacation spot is reeling from the economic fallout of the May 2-3 storm.

US first lady Laura Bush in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—First lady Laura Bush is highlighting signs of rebirth in war-weary Afghanistan on Sunday ahead of a donors conference in Paris, where the U.S. hopes billions of dollars in international aid will be pledged to help the embattled nation.

This is Mrs. Bush's third trip to Afghanistan, where the repressive Taliban ruled until U.S. forces invaded following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

"The people of Afghanistan don't want to go back and live like that," Mrs. Bush told reporters on her plane as it made the nearly 14-hour flight to the Afghan capital. "They know what it was like. The international community can't drop Afghanistan now, at this very crucial time."

President Bush, in an interview in Washington on Friday with RAI TV of Italy, said bluntly, "Afghanistan is broke."

Mrs. Bush also is visiting Bamiyan Province, where two colossal statues of Buddha that were carved into sandstone cliffs more than 2,000 years ago were demolished by the Taliban in March 2001. Destruction of the historical and cultural treasures prompted an outcry from the international community.

From her helicopter, Mrs. Bush will see the empty niches where the Buddha statues once stood. But even though there are plans under way to rebuild them, she opted not to see them close-up, saying the ruins are symbolic of Afghanistan's past.

Afghanistan is seeing a resurgence of violence and a spiraling heroin trade. Last year, more than 8,000 people were killed in insurgency-related attacks - the most since the 2001 invasion - and violence has claimed more than 1,500 lives this year.

Mrs. Bush is spending several hours on the ground to meet with President Hamid Karzai, visit U.S. troops and see a police training academy that is training female recruits.

President Bush has defended Karzai against critics who say his government is weak and isn't doing enough to battle corruption and drug trafficking. Mrs. Bush said the U.S. and other nations should not blame Karzai unless they are going to give him credit for all the progress that's being made.

"It's really not that fair," she said. "I think it's undermining, frankly, to blame him for a lot of the things that may or may not be his fault. He inherited—just by becoming president—a country that's been totally devastated. It is very, very difficult when you have al-Qaida and Taliban all over the borders and making incursions into Afghanistan, and it's intimidating for everyone."

Outcast writer seeks stories in China's quake zone

By CARA ANNA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

JIEZI, China (AP)—The people Liao Yiwu interviews exist on the fringe of Chinese society, and more than a few live closely with death. The mortician. The grave robber. The professional mourner, who now can't be found.

All were from Sichuan province, the writer's home and the center of China's devastating May 12 earthquake. A month ago, it knocked Liao to one knee in his apartment compound. He struggled upright and started running; his home and family survived.

Now Liao is wandering the disaster zone, looking for its stories.

Liao's writings, mostly banned in China but published in the West, often show those left behind by the country's economic rise. His new collection will focus on how the quake, which killed more than 69,000 people, is upending lives.

"These deaths are going to change China, and Chinese history," Liao, 50, said in an interview Friday at a teahouse near his home in Wenjiang, before setting off to explore more of the damage.

Many Chinese have focused on their country's economic success, taking pride in its emerging global power and status. Now, Liao said, they'll be more concerned with their own pain and destinies.

The Chinese government disapproves of the way Liao brings people from the country's darker corners - the political prisoner, the public toilet manager, the leper - and publishes their stories. Some of the interviews have appeared in The Paris Review. A collection in English—"The Corpse Walker"—was published in the United States this year.

"He's remarkable, sort of the Studs Terkel of China," said Larry Siems of the PEN American Center, referring to the American Pulitzer Prize-winning writer and oral historian. The center, which is the U.S. office of the international literary and human rights organization, learned about Liao after receiving a submission from the writer's U.S.-based translator and then tipped off Paris Review editor Philip Gourevitch.

"Above all, he is a medium for whole muzzled swathes of Chinese society that the (Communist) Party would like to pretend do not exist," Gourevitch wrote in the book's foreword.

India, China jostle for influence in Indian Ocean

By GAVIN RABINOWITZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITE

HAMBANTOTA, Sri Lanka (AP)—This battered harbor town on Sri Lanka's southern tip, with its scrawny men selling even scrawnier fish, seems an unlikely focus for an emerging international competition over energy supply routes that fuel much of the global economy.

An impoverished place still recovering from the devastation of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, Hambantota has a desolate air, a sense of nowhereness, punctuated by the realization that looking south over the expanse of ocean, the next landfall is Antarctica.

But just over the horizon runs one of the world's great trade arteries, the shipping lanes where thousands of vessels carry oil from the Middle East and raw materials to Asia, returning with television sets, toys and sneakers for European consumers.

These tankers provide 80 percent of China's oil and 65 percent of India's - fuel desperately needed for the two countries' rapidly growing economies. Japan, too, is almost totally dependent on energy supplies shipped through the Indian Ocean.

Any disruption - from terrorism, piracy, natural disaster or war - could have devastating effects on these countries and, in an increasingly interdependent world, send ripples across the globe. When an unidentified ship attacked a Japanese oil tanker traveling through the Indian Ocean from South Korea to Saudi Arabia in April, the news sent oil prices to record highs.

For decades the world relied on the powerful U.S. Navy to protect this vital sea lane. But as India and China gain economic heft, they are moving to expand their control of the waterway, sparking a new - and potentially dangerous—rivalry between Asia's emerging giants.

China has given massive aid to Indian Ocean nations, signing friendship pacts, building ports in Pakistan and Bangladesh as well as Sri Lanka, and reportedly setting up a listening post on one of Myanmar's islands near the strategic Strait of Malacca.

Now, India is trying to parry China's moves. It beat out China for a port project in Myanmar. And, flush with cash from its expanding economy, India is beefing up its military, with the expansion seemingly aimed at China. Washington and, to a lesser extent, Tokyo are encouraging India's role as a counterweight to growing Chinese power.

Among China's latest moves is the billion dollar port its engineers are building in Sri Lanka, an island country just off India's southern coast.

World

Car bombings in Baghdad leave at least 6 dead

BAGHDAD (AP)—A suicide car bomb and another car packed with explosives targeted Iraqi police patrols Saturday on opposite sides of Baghdad, killing at least six people, police said.

The suicide attacker rammed into a police patrol mid-afternoon in Nisoor Square on the capital's west side, killing a civilian and a policeman, police said. Another five people were wounded.

The other explosion took place nearly simultaneously across town at a crowded bus stop where passengers were lining up to catch rides to eastern Shiite neighborhoods, though police said the target was the passing convoy of a top Iraqi police general.

Four people were killed and 18 wounded, Brig. Gen. Nazar Majeed among them, said an officer on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to media. Three of the dead were policemen, he said.

AP

Firefighters throw water to burned car in Nisoor square in western Baghdad, Iraq, following a car bomb explosion on Saturday, June 7, 2008. A suicide car bomb exploded on a police patrol in Nisoor square almost the same time of the central Baghdad explosion, killing one civilian and one policeman plus wounding 5 others, said police.

The area includes shops that sell spare auto parts and tires, and is frequently used as a shortcut for Interior Ministry convoys trying to avoid traffic jams on another main street leading to government buildings, the officer said.

Tareq Salman, who owns a tea stall nearby, said he heard a huge explosion and then saw smoke spewing from the bus station.

"I saw several passengers running and several minibuses on fire. I saw wounded men screaming for help and police cars taking some seriously wounded to the hospital," 54-year-old Salman said. "There were blood stains and one burned body."

"Most of my tea cups were broken and some car parts shops were damaged," he said.

Such blasts - once a somber but daily feature of life in Iraq's capital - have become far less frequent since a U.S. troop buildup last year. A truck loaded with rockets exploded Wednesday in northeast Baghdad, killing 18 people in the deadliest single blast in more than two months.

In Mosul, provincial Gov. Duraid Kashmola escaped assassination Saturday when gunmen attacked his convoy in the western part of the city. One of the vehicles was damaged in the attack, but there were no casualties, the provincial press office said.

Two policemen were killed Saturday evening in a drive-by shooting in downtown Mosul, police said. Five people including three civilian bystanders were wounded.

Kosovo prime minister's home attacked

By NEBI QENA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

PRISTINA, Kosovo (AP)—Armed assailants trying to break into the home of Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaci exchanged fire with guards, but the leader was away and his family was not hurt, police said Saturday.

Police later said they had arrested a 19-year-old ethnic Albanian man suspected in the shooting. They said they found the suspect, who was already known to authorities, after a tip from his father.

The teenager has a wound to his arm, leading police to believe he was shot in a shootout with Thaci's security guards.

Thaci condemned the assault as an attack upon his family and urged Kosovo's citizens to remain calm.

"Last night my family was attacked," Thaci told reporters in the capital, Pristina. "Like any parent and husband I am happy that my family is safe."

"No one will have the power to threaten independence, democratic order, rule of law, the freedom and security of the citizen of the Republic of Kosovo," Thaci said.

Police said the teenager told investigators he did not know he was breaking into the prime minister's house and that he had only wanted to steal something.

Police said Thaci's security guards spotted one person trying to break into the two-story house from the balcony of the top floor. They exchanged fire with an unknown number of assailants, who did not manage to get into the house. The attackers escaped but at least one was believed to be wounded because traces of blood were found.

Thaci, the former political head of Kosovo's ethnic Albanian rebels, the Kosovo Liberation Army, is regarded as the key figure in pushing for Kosovo's independence from Serbia. Kosovo declared independence on Feb. 17 following close coordination with Western capitals. The declaration is fiercely opposed by Serbia.

Deputy Prime Minister Hajredin Kuqi said Thaci had been away on a private visit at the time of the attack. He said authorities have increased security measures for government officials.

Kuqi called the attack "a criminal act" and said, "it goes beyond any political hatred."

Police began a search and tightened security at Kosovo's border crossings to prevent the suspects from fleeing, a police official told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the operation.

The attackers were believed to have dragged the wounded assailant to a car and sped off, the official said.

Thaci's home is in a suburb of Kosovo's capital, Pristina, that is the site of most embassies and diplomatic residences.

Relations between ethnic Albanian political parties in Kosovo have been marked by tensions and bitter rivalry. Thaci heads an uneasy coalition government forged with the party of late pacifist President Ibrahim Rugova, once his main rival.

UN urges rebel group in Congo to disarm

By EDITH M. LEDERER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

KINSHASA, Congo (AP)—The U.N. Security Council on Saturday praised Congolese President Joseph Kabila's vision for the country while urging a key rebel group to disarm and participate in talks to bring peace to the war-ravaged region.

During an hour-long meeting with Kabila at the Presidential Palace, Congo's leader told council members that the military situation in the east is already improving, France's U.N. Ambassador Jean-Maurice Ripert said.

"Our feeling - and the feeling of the president - was that it was improving because every day you have some militias who are surrendering. So the process is giving good signs, and the improvement of relationship with both Uganda and Rwanda certainly will help," the French ambassador said.

Ripert, who is leading the council visit to Congo, said Kabila is putting all his weight behind a Security Council resolution which specifically calls on the FDLR to disarm.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Rwanda, known by its French acronym of FDLR, is an extremist Hutu militia accused of orchestrating the 1994 genocide of half a million Tutsis in Rwanda. The militia fled to the forested hills of eastern Congo after being chased out of neighboring Rwanda and has set up bases in the remote jungle.

Zimbabwe opposition says court allows rallies

By ANGUS SHAW
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Zimbabwe's opposition will hold rallies in the capital Sunday following a favorable court ruling, an official said Saturday, with only weeks to go before its leader faces longtime President Robert Mugabe in a runoff.

The ruling came a day after the opposition said it had been told that all the party's rallies in the country had been banned indefinitely.

Nqobizitha Mlilo, a spokesman for the Movement for Democratic Change, said Saturday's ruling meant the police ban cannot be enforced.

The embattled opposition, however, suffered setbacks elsewhere, including the arrest of a prominent member.

Also Saturday, a government minister was quoted as accusing aid groups of campaigning for the opposition and using money donated by the U.S., among Mugabe's harshest critics, to destabilize the government.

AP

Morgan Tsvangirai, second left, leader of the main opposition party in Zimbabwe, the Movement for Democratic Change, greets people during his 'meeting the people' campaign in Nkayi near Bulawayo, Saturday, June, 7, 2008.

Opposition presidential candidate Morgan Tsvangirai beat Mugabe and two other candidates in the first round of presidential voting March 29 but did not garner the 50 percent plus one vote necessary to avoid a runoff, which is set for June 27.

Tsvangirai spoke to small groups of voters Saturday around Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second largest city. Reporters traveling with him said small crowds greeted him enthusiastically.

At one stop, where it appeared he had planned a rally, riot police were on hand and told him no gatherings were allowed.

"We have to find a way of getting word to voters under these conditions," Mlilo said Saturday. But he expressed confidence, saying Mugabe's crackdown "will only strengthen the resolve of Zimbabweans to finish this regime off."

Mlilo said it was unlikely Tsvangirai would address Sunday's rallies in Harare.

Also Saturday, police took opposition lawmaker Eric Matinenga from his Harare home and detained him at a station outside the capital, accusing him of fomenting violence, said his lawyer, Beatrice Mtetwa.

Hundreds of students still stranded in Gaza

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—They squander their days watching TV and surfing the Web instead of studying, but it's not for lack of discipline: Gaza students accepted at foreign universities are stuck at home because Israel and Egypt won't let them leave the blockaded territory.

The students' plight made headlines last week when Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice interceded with Israel on behalf of seven students with prestigious Fulbright scholarships awarded by the U.S. government. But hundreds without such powerful allies will likely lose their shot at a good education, given Gaza's sparse offerings.

The blockade, imposed after Hamas' violent takeover of Gaza a year ago, is meant to bring down the Islamic militants and inspire Gazans to opt for a more moderate leadership.

But critics say the closure, backed by the international community, is accomplishing the opposite.

Hamas has become more entrenched and Gazans are growing more angry at the West as isolation worsens the strip's poverty, say the critics, who include both Israelis and Palestinians. They add that Gaza is also being robbed of future leaders—the trapped students—because they can't get the necessary training.

"I feel that I'm lost," said Ahmed Nasrallah, who studied computer programming in London, but has been stuck in Gaza since a summer visit home last year. "I am a victim of a battle that I am not part of."

The uproar over the Fulbright students touched only on a small part of what human rights groups consider collective punishment of Gaza's population.

Health & Fitness

Intense diabetes therapy didn't cut heart problems

NEW YORK (AP) -- Aggressively treating diabetes doesn't prevent heart problems and deaths any better than standard treatment for lowering blood sugar, Australian researchers reported Friday.

It's the second large study, involving thousands of patients, to show no heart benefit from drastically lowering diabetics' blood sugar levels. Experts said doctors should stick to the recommended target levels.

Heart disease is the cause of death for two-thirds of diabetics. Researchers tried pushing blood sugar down to near-normal levels to see if that would protect the hearts of high-risk patients with Type 2 diabetes.

But the Australian study showed no difference in the number of heart attacks, strokes and heart-related deaths between groups who got intensive or standard care. A U.S. study that was stopped earlier this year also showed no benefit and in addition reported an unexplained higher number of deaths among those who were aggressively treated.

The Australian study showed one positive result - a one-fifth reduction in kidney problems, a common complication of diabetes, compared to normal care.

AP

The U.S. Diabetes Conversation Map program is a novel health education method and patient engagement tool that uses small group conversation to lead diabetes patients to personal health discoveries and positive behavior change. The program was developed by Healthy Interactions (Booth #735), in collaboration with the American Diabetes Association. The training and distribution of the tools in the U.S. are sponsored by Merck.

"Both studies are important contributions to the field but do not provide a definitive answer," Dr. William T. Cefalu, of Louisiana State University, wrote in an editorial in the New England Journal of Medicine. He said other ongoing studies should provide clarification.

Both studies were released Friday in the journal and are being presented at an American Diabetes Association meeting in San Francisco. Partial results of the U.S. research were released in February when it was halted.

An estimated 21 million Americans and 250 million people worldwide have diabetes, meaning their bodies can't properly regulate their blood sugar, or glucose. Most have Type 2 diabetes. High levels of blood sugar can cause damage to the heart, blood vessels, kidneys and eyes.

Instead of trying aggressive measures, experts say there should be more focus on other strategies known to lower heart risks - diet, exercise and medications such as aspirin, cholesterol-lowering statins and blood pressure drugs.

In the two studies, researchers used a test that tracks average glucose levels over two to three months. For diabetics in the U.S., the recommended level is below 7. People without diabetes have levels around 5.

Both studies targeted diabetes patients middle-aged or older who had a heart problem or other heart risk factors. Doctors used a variety of diabetes drugs and insulin to try to get blood sugar levels down - to less than 6 in the U.S. study and 6.5 or lower in the international study.

Step lively...and aim for big numbers

By VICKY HALLETT
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Q. I've heard many recommendations to use a pedometer and try to walk 10,000 steps a day. I've been using one for years and usually meet or exceed the target. But most of my steps are at a normal walking pace — just to get wherever I'm going. What I usually don't manage is 30 minutes of exercise a day. The 10,000 steps can't be the same thing as 30 minutes of exercise a day. How do these fit together?

A. I think it's time you and I had the talk. About guidelines. When a government loves its citizens very much, it offers them advice in the form of easy-to-remember numbers. But while these suggestions are helpful starting points (especially for folks who haven't yet dragged themselves off the couch), their value depends on the individual needs of the person. So how do all of these recommendations fit together? In you.

Those 10,000 steps (an idea that originated in Japan) are a terrific indicator that you're getting more activity than the average person and warding off disease in the process, says Melissa Johnson, executive director of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. In fact, she wouldn't even have true exercise newbies go that far. "We want to encourage sedentary people, and that figure could be daunting," she says.

The council's baseline recommendation, therefore, is actually 8,500 steps a day. That's the 5,000 most people rack up in the course of a day with an extra 3,500 tacked on from a half-hour of brisk walking.

In other words, the 30-minutes-a-day exercise standard can be part of the 10,000-steps goal as long as you're moving quickly enough to raise your heart rate. And it doesn't have to be done in one chunk; "bouts of 10 to 15 minutes are great," Johnson adds. So if your main concern is merely meeting these two standards, just put a bit more spring into your step during longer treks.

But that covers only the guidelines, not your personal goals. If it's weight loss you're after, you'll want to exceed those numbers. And while walking works wonders, it's hard to feel healthy without a strength, balance and flexibility regimen as well.

■ ■ ■

Q. I'm about 30 pounds overweight and am slowly whittling that down via a healthier diet and a pretty intense kickboxing class three to five times a week. I'd like to start running but am nervous about the strain on my knees and hips (notorious weak points in my family). Any suggestions for starting a running program? Cardiovascularly speaking, I'm in pretty good shape. I'm just worried about the strain on the rest of my body. Should I hold off until I lose a little more weight?

A. If chunky people couldn't jog, you'd have a heck of a time explaining the existence of John "The Penguin" Bingham, the Runner's World columnist whose whole shtick is that he transformed himself from a 240-pound lump into a bona fide marathoner.

Bingham, also the author of "Running for Mortals," credits his success to his slow and steady approach: He began with walking, gradually blended in running and made sure never to do anything that left him achy. "It took me six months before I could walk/run three miles," he says.

Maggie Shapiro, co-owner of Washington area Potomac River Running and an accomplished triathlete and coach, teaches her runners a similar lesson. "We advise everyone to go in with a plan and build carefully," she says. "It needs to be pre-thought, or that excitement of feeling good can set people on a slippery slope."

That's because injuries happen not because of your family history of weak knees, but because of overuse and misuse. Given the proper buildup, footwear and recovery, your body will learn how to handle these stresses, she adds. And thanks to your cardiovascular health, you may find out that not only can you be a runner, you can be a pretty good one.

■ ■ ■

Q. I really want to get my arms in shape for tank-top season. (I am a mid-20s female.) I plan on going to the gym about three times per week and using free weights to tone up. Are there any exercises I shouldn't leave out of my routine? Is three times a week enough?

A. Those weights will come in handy later, but Jane Greene, who gets ladies in tip-top shape over at Capitol Hill's GI Jane Fitness, wants you to put them down for now. That way you can do the single best exercise for developing the upper body: the push-up. That not only gets at the arms and shoulders, but also the chest, which "makes things perkier," she notes.

Greene is also a fan of the clean and press, which might sound like something you do with your laundry but is actually an Olympic weightlifting exercise that involves grabbing a barbell from the floor to chest height in one swift movement, and then shoving it toward the ceiling. (But I'd recommend doing that under the supervision of someone who can guide your form.) Her dumbbell picks include: Biceps curls, shoulder presses and upright rows.

And don't forget about those triceps. The muscles along the back of your arm will be the last thing people see when you stride by sexily, so Bert Dumas, a trainer with One World Personal Training, wants you to incorporate a towel grab. Hold it vertically behind your back with one hand gripping and pulling the top of it near the back of your head, while the other hand provides resistance at the bottom.

FROM START TO FITNESS

Water aerobics

By ANDREA RENEE WYATT, M.S.S., C.S.C.S.
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Q: I take water aerobics classes twice a week, and I enjoy them. The classes use special weights designed for the pool, and we do exercises using the water as resistance. We do not swim. Is water aerobics enough to keep my body fit, or should I do another type of exercise outside of the pool?

A: Water aerobics, or aqua aerobics as it also is called, can be a great way to strengthen your muscles and improve cardiovascular function while having fun. Exercises such as yoga, Pilates, tai chi, cycling and even running can all be done in the water, offering a great benefit to your fitness plan.

Research has found that water aerobics is not only a great workout, but offers a way to exercise for some people who are unable to participate in a traditional exercise program due to injury, certain medical conditions such as fibromyalgia and diabetes, and even obesity. Our bodies weigh just 10 percent of their normal body weight while in chin-deep water, making us more buoyant and possibly more capable of performing movements that would be more difficult outside the pool.

Your benefits from water aerobics will depend on the exercise program design of the class and the intensity of your workouts. If your class is structured to incorporate total-body strength training along with a cardiovascular workout, you are on the right track. Also, you control the intensity of your workout. The resistance of the water is dependant on how much resistance you push toward the water, so most of the benefits of water aerobics comes from the work output of the participant.

Water aerobics has many benefits, but it is not considered a weight-bearing exercise, which uses your lower extremities to hold your weight. In water aerobics, the water is holding your weight, not your lower body. Weight-bearing exercise is necessary to maintain the strength of your bones and joints, and is recommended as an important protocol for preventing osteoporosis and maintaining strong bone and joint health.

Speak with your physician before beginning an exercise program on land, especially if you were prescribed a water aerobics program for a specific medical condition. Also, speak with a fitness professional who can help you develop a safe exercise program on land that will take into consideration your water-aerobic activities.

A balance between water aerobics and land exercises can be the best combination for you to achieve an overall workout. Continue to enjoy your water aerobics classes, and if possible, begin to add one or two days a week of land exercise.

Always consult a physician before beginning an exercise program. Andrea Renee Wyatt, M.S.S., C.S.C.S., is a personal trainer with an extensive background in strength and conditioning as well as therapeutic recreation. If you have a fitness or training question, write to Andrea in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

Life & Style

Learn how to make a Malibu drink with style

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

Last week, the 2008 Northern Marianas Bartenders Association hosted the "Malibu Rum" Challenge, where the island's professional bartenders dueled each other on making the best cocktail they could come up with using Malibu Rum. Learn how to make some of the professional bartender's mix using Malibu by following what the contestants used during the competition.

MICHAEL LIM
Palms Resort Saipan

Malibu Seabreeze
1 jig Malibu
1 jig Kahlua
1 jig dark rum
1/2 jig fresh lemon juice
5 jigs pineapple juice
dashes of 151 proof rum
Splash of Sprite

There are four steps to follow in order to make this drink. First, in a blender with ice cubes, combine all ingredients except Sprite. Blend well. Third, pour into a pocco grande glass. Add Sprite. Garnish with fresh strawberry or red cherry.

ROLANDO FERNANDEZ
Palms Resort Saipan

Erotic Maximizer
1 1/2 jig Malibu
1 jig tequila,
1 jig Blue Curaçao,
1 jig bailey's Irish cream,
3 jigs pineapple juice
Splash of Sprite
A slice of fresh pineapple, orange and red cherry

There are four steps to follow in order to make this drink. First, combine all ingredients except Sprite. Shake well. Strain into a pocco grande glass that is almost filled with ice cubes and add a splash of Sprite. Garnish with a slice of fresh pineapple, orange and red cherry.

GATDULA JAYSAN
Marianas Resort

Simply Red
2 jigs Malibu rum,
1 1/2 jig triple sec,
1 jig crème de menthe,
1 jig grenadine syrup,
2 pcs sugar cubes
1 jig whipped cream and raspberry.

Blend.

MALIBU COCONUT RUM CHALLENGE AWARDS:

NOVICE CATEGORY
Jayson Gatdula-Marianas Resort & Spa-2
Bernard Aquino- Hyatt Regency Saipan-4
Rojinia Banacia-Hyatt Regency Saipan-6
Michael Faraon Lim- Palms Resort Hotel-8
Roland Fernandez-Palms Resort Hotel-7
Ramil Eustaquio-Wonderful Bar-1
Joseph Solmarin- Abyss Bar-3
Jay Santos- The Ellite-10
Mico Usi- Hawaii Bar-5
Merv Catienza- The Flair-9

NOVICE AWARDS LIST
Champion: Mico Usi
Best in Sportsmanship: Jay Santos
Best in Taste: Mico Usi
Jayson Gatdula
Roland Fernandez
Michael Faraon Lim
Ramil Eustaquio

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
The participants and judges pose after the Malibu Coconut Rum Challenge competition.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Contestants came up with many creative cocktails using the Malibu Rum as the basic ingredient.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
2008 Taste of the Marianas Bartenders Cocktail Competition novice category winner Monico Usi of the Hawaii Bar.

2008 Taste of the Marianas Bartenders Cocktail Competition Battle of the Champions winner Jaymar Torres of Aqua Resort Club.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
The Flair's world-class bartenders Champ and Wally with friends.

Mico Usi's award-winning drink, Green Island

Green Island (La Islas Verde)
1 jig Malibu rum
1/2 jig Peach Schnapps
1/2 jig Triple Sec
1/2 jig vodka
Dash of creme de menthe
1/2 jig Hi-C melon
2 1/2 jig Citrus punch
6 pieces fresh grapes
1 slice fresh apple
Four leaves of fresh mint

BATTLE OF THE CHAMPIONS
Champion: Jaymar Torres (former champion, 2008 champion)
Best in Sportsmanship: Jaymar Torres

Lito Espino, event organizer, would like to express his gratitude to the contestant's managers. "Without them this would have never been possible," said Espino.

The Malibu Coconut Rum, Marianas Visitor Authority, PTI, Coca Cola, and Duty Free Shop Galleria sponsored this year's bartender's competition.

Bo Diddley gets a rocking sendoff at funeral

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP)—Bo Diddley's funeral rocked and rolled Saturday with as much energy as his music.

For four hours, friends and relatives sang, danced and celebrated the life of the man who helped give birth to rock and roll with a signature beat that influenced Buddy Holly, Elvis Presley, the Rolling Stones and many others.

As family members passed by the Rock and Roll Hall of Famer's casket, a gospel band played his namesake song. Within moments, the crowd of several hundred began clapping in time and shouting, "Hey, Bo Diddley!"

Diddley, 79, died of heart failure Monday at his home in nearby Archer.

"In 1955 he used to keep the crowds rocking and rolling way before Elvis Presley," Diddley's grandson, Garry Mitchell, said before kicking his legs sideways, high up in the air, the way Diddley did onstage. Mourners cheered.

"I'm just telling it the way it is," Mitchell said.

Diddley, who was born Ellas Bates and became Ellas McDaniel when he took the last name of a cousin who raised him, was remembered for much more than his songs. Friends recounted his generosity, manifested in concerts for the homeless and work with youth groups and other charities; and the way he loved to talk to just about anybody he met.

Gainesville Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan referred to one of his most famous hits as she told the crowd, "When the question is asked, 'Who do you love?', it's you, Bo."

The funeral was followed by a tribute concert featuring his touring band and other musicians.

AP

The casket carrying musical legend Bo Diddley is carried from the funeral home in Gainesville, Fla. Saturday, June 7, 2008. Bo Diddley died June 2, 2008 of congestive heart failure.

Eric Burdon, leader of the rock group The Animals, attended the service, and flowers were sent from musicians including Jerry Lee Lewis, Tom Petty, George Thorogood and others.

Burdon, also a member of the Rock Hall, called Diddley a big influence.

"I've been a fan of his since 16, 17 years of age. Probably one of the first records I ever owned," Burdon said, recalling that his attention was immediately grabbed when he saw an album cover with Diddley sitting on a scooter with a square guitar.

Burdon said he saw Diddley play last year at a concert in Australia, and even though he could tell his health wasn't great, Diddley put tremendous energy into the show. He was known for his stage moves, which some presume influenced Presley.

"He's always been jumping around and very aggressive; if he was onstage with the Stones, he was obviously putting Keith Richards in his place," Burdon said. In describing the "shave and a haircut, two bits" rhythm Diddley made famous, Burdon said, "I call it bone music, because it goes to your bone."

But stories of another side of Diddley were told repeatedly at the funeral. A man who loved God and his family, who would always stop to talk in the grocery store and was always smiling.

His brother, the Rev. Kenneth Haynes of Biloxi, Miss., said Diddley always asked how he could help and what he could give. "There was one thing he wouldn't give me. That's his hat," Haynes said, referring to the black hat the musician was also known for.

But Haynes said his brother grew weary of life on the road.

"'But this is what God gave me to feed my family,'" Haynes recalled Diddley saying. "'I have to keep doing it until God says it's enough.'"

Diddley was born in McComb, Miss. He moved to rural Archer in the early 1980s and had a recording studio on his 76 acres. Mitchell joked that Diddley got up so early, he would tap the roosters on the shoulder to wake them up. And he always sang at breakfast.

Diddley's friend Roosevelt Hutchinson described how the musician would wrap meat in several layers of tin foil, bury it and light a fire on top to cook it. Once the fire was lit, he would grab his guitar.

"He just enjoyed playing that thing under those trees," Hutchinson said.

But he enjoyed his family even more, friends said. He had four children, 15 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

"Please know this, because I know Diddley," the guitarist's business manager, Faith Fusillo, told his family. "As much as you loved him, he loved you more."

Groundbreaking sportscaster Jim McKay dies at 86

NEW YORK (AP)—Jim McKay elegantly covered competitions from badminton to barrel jumping. Yet he may best be remembered for that grim day at the Munich Olympics when he broke the news with three simple words: "They're all gone."

The groundbreaking sportscaster died Saturday of natural causes at his farm in Monkton, Md. He was 86.

McKay was the one who spanned the globe to bring television viewers the constant variety of sports on ABC's influential "Wide World of Sports," where he told of "the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat."

A far different kind of agony awaited in 1972 when word came down in Munich that Palestinian terrorists had kidnapped 11 Israeli athletes. McKay was summoned from a day off, hurriedly putting clothes over a bathing suit to anchor ABC's coverage of the drama as the games stood still.

The commando raid to free the hostages ended awfully. McKay told the world. Later, at the closing ceremony, he read a poem by A.E. Housman, "To an Athlete Dying Young."

"I had to control myself," he later recalled. "I was full of emotion. But when you are a professional, it is important to communicate what it is like, to capture the moment."

President Bush lauded McKay for his "skill and sensitivity" during coverage of the 1972 Olympics.

"He was a talented and eloquent newsman and storyteller whose special gift was his ability to make the viewers at home genuinely care about more than just who won or lost," Bush said in a statement.

It was "Wide World of Sports" that built ABC Sports into a powerhouse after its debut in 1961. The age before ESPN and a constant video loop of highlights was simpler then, and viewers tuned in to see what new kind of competition McKay could find. ABC estimated McKay traveled 4 1/2 million miles on assignment for "Wide World," covering 40 countries.

When he moved from NBC to ABC Sports, pioneering television executive Roone Arledge specifically sought out McKay.

"Some people ... can make something dramatic by the inflections of their voices, without shouting," Arledge said. "Jim's not just somebody yelling at you. He has a sense of words, a sense of the drama of the moment."

Sportscaster Mike Tirico recalled that at his home when growing up in New York "dinner wasn't served until 'Wide World of Sports' was over." Tirico went on work at four British Opens with McKay.

"I remember him more than anything standing on some ski slope with snow falling around him and covering some downhill ski event somewhere in the world, whether it was the Olympics or not," Los Angeles Lakers coach Phil Jackson said from the NBA finals in Boston. Jackson said McKay changed "our view of sports and our world experience of sports."

The New York Yankees paused to remember McKay before their game Saturday. He died hours before Big Brown failed in his attempt to complete the Triple Crown at the Belmont Stakes in McKay's favorite sport of all, horse racing.

A veteran of the U.S. Navy in World War II, James McManus was a newspaper reporter who transferred to television when The (Baltimore) Sun started its own station. He was the first on-air broadcaster seen in Baltimore, and hosted a three-hour weekday show, "The Sports Parade."

He moved to New York to do a similar show there dubbed "The Real McKay" by a CBS executive. McManus changed his professional name accordingly.

"He had a remarkable career and a remarkable life," his son, Sean McManus, president of CBS News and Sports, told The Associated Press on Saturday. "Hardly a day goes by when someone doesn't come up to me and say how much they admired my father."

McKay - understated, dignified and with a clear eye for detail - covered 12 Olympics. His last was in 2002 at Salt Lake City for NBC after he received special permission to get out of his lifetime contract with ABC Sports. NBC Sports chairman Dick Ebersol began working with McKay as a 19-year-old Olympics researcher in 1968.

"He was truly the most respected and admired sportscaster of his generation and defined how the stories of sports can and should be covered," Ebersol said. "While we all know what an absolute titan he was in his chosen field, I will always remember him as an extraordinary human being guided by a strong moral compass."

AP

This 1980 file photo originally from ABC-TV shows Jim McKay.

ESPN and ABC Sports president George Bodenheimer called McKay "a founding father of sports television." Added Bob Iger, president and chief executive of The Walt Disney Company: "He was a regular guy who wrote and spoke like a poet."

McKay left his mark on countless colleagues. Bob Costas called McKay a "singular broadcaster."

"He brought a reporter's eye, a literate touch, and above all a personal humanity to every assignment," Costas said. "He had a combination of qualities seldom seen in the history of the medium, not just sports."

CBS Sports' Jim Nantz said McKay was the broadcasting hero of his youth.

"I hung onto his every words and wrote him letters when I was a kids," he said. "I feel like one of the greatest joys of my life was having the chance to get to know him as a friend and father figure."

Auto racing great A.J. Foyt called McKay one of the "most down-to-earth and sincere sports guys I knew."

"He interviewed me many times and he was always a real gentleman," Foyt said. "He didn't ask stupid questions."

McKay was a minority owner of the Baltimore Orioles. Majority owner Peter Angelos regarded him as a "visionary and a pioneer of sports broadcasting" who "never forgot where he came from, or his Maryland roots."

In addition to McManus, McKay's survivors include his wife, Margaret, and his daughter, Mary. Margaret met McKay when they were reporters at The Sun, and they would have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in October.

"He was a great father and I don't think he had one single regret when he passed away," his son said.

Funeral arrangements have not been announced.

Carly Simon still fighting the status quo

(This time with kids in tow)

By RANDY LEWIS
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Carly Simon isn't the first name you would expect to find on a list of classic-rock superstars who keep tabs on "American Idol."

"I tune in whenever I get a chance," she says in that signature dusky voice. "How could I not, when this season Brooke White sang 'You're So Vain' and did such a nice job on it, and Carly (Smithson) was named after me?"

But it's not enough to make a complete "Idol" believer out of the woman who long ago defined female rock-star cool and who helped usher in a new era for female singer-songwriters in which they were no longer simply attractive voices and faces for music largely written and produced by men.

"Idol" trots out singers of both sexes before a panel of judges so that millions of viewers can choose one for career molding by an all-powerful veteran—and male—music-industry titan, Clive Davis.

In that sense, the most powerful music platform in today's world seems the antithesis of the time in the early '70s when Simon, Carole King, Joni Mitchell, Laura Nyro and their sister artists were achieving greater autonomy.

"There's no question that through 'American Idol' we've gone back a couple of eras into the Berry Gordy/Supremes pulling-the-strings kind of thing," said the jet-setting onetime paramour of Warren Beatty and Kris Kristofferson who later married—then divorced—folk-rock star James Taylor.

This is the same woman who won a Grammy for best new artist after her questioning of conventional marriage in the 1971 ballad "That's the Way I've Always Heard It Should Be" and who went to No. 1 with one of pop music's most celebrity comeuppances ever, "You're So Vain," the 1973 hit that turned up on "Idol."

Today, Simon still questions the status quo—whether musical, social or political. But her main interest, the way it always was, is understanding and expressing her inner world.

That can come out in a new album, like "This Kind of Love," released in April, or through projects such as "Romulus Hunt," the family opera she wrote in 1993 and which has been revived this year in Florida.

She's going about it with the help of the two things she prizes most from her days as a queen of rock: her children (with Taylor) Ben and Sally.

Simon remains rock-star chic at age 62 in a black leather jacket covering a burgundy dress slipped over a black body-stocking. Thick wedge sandals push her rangy frame over the 6-foot mark. She's every bit as slim as she was on the covers of her earliest albums, despite her assertion that "I never exercised a day in my life."

She's not one to suggest that everything magically turned gender-blind during the "sexual revolution" of the 1960s and '70s. Her role as a musician-turned-feminist pioneer is recounted and celebrated in Sheila Weller's new book, "Girls Like Us: Carole King, Joni Mitchell, Carly Simon -- and the Journey of a Generation" (Atria Books).

"I don't think there was a halcyon time" for women, she says.

Simon had her own encounters with sexism—one of Weller's anecdotes intimates that a rock engineer once refused to work on her album unless she slept with him.

But as the '70s unfolded, "There was somehow an innate respect that the heads of the record companies and producers had for the three of us as artists.

"It might have been because of the success that we were winning for them, or that (musicians') contracts changed a little bit. But there was a little movement—it just wasn't a movement that changed anything for keeps. It was a movement that led into imitators who were not respected except as people who could sell records and look good."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Carly Simon says her '70s inroads for female singer-songwriters didn't really last. "It was a movement that led into imitators who were not respected except as people who could sell records and look good."

Simon has turned over the glare of the spotlight to newer faces. But when she puts out a new album, it still sells respectable quantities, as do many baby-boomer rock acts. Her latest, the Brazilian-tinged "This Kind of Love," has sold 68,000 copies since its release.

This year, she joined Mitchell, Paul McCartney and ex-husband Taylor on the Hear Music label, Starbucks-Concord Records' joint venture. But just before "This Kind of Love" was released, Starbucks went through a shake-up in which founder Howard Schultz returned the emphasis to selling coffee. Part of that included dumping many of the music staff that had nurtured Simon's record.

Day-to-day operation of Hear Music has been handed over to Starbucks' original partner in the venture, the jazz-oriented Concord Music label. Simon said the transition has renewed her confidence, but only after serious trauma.

"I was very angry at first," Simon said. "I went through all the stages: anger, denial, acceptance. ... But we had a big meeting at Concord where I got to meet all the new people, and I got the confidence that people had either done their homework or were initially fans."

She liked former Starbucks-Hear Music talent development exec Alan Mintz so much that she recently hired him as her manager. The new album also reconnected her with songwriter Jimmy Webb, with whom she produced it.

There's a family thread among the baker's dozen songs, most written by Simon but one each written by Sally Taylor and Ben Taylor, (34 and 31, respectively): "When We're Together" and Ben's "Island."

They also included "Hola Soleil," one Carly wrote with Ben (and four other co-writers), only the second time she's recorded a song she worked on with her son.

Ben, who lives with his mother in New York, is a reassuring presence for the woman who still hasn't fully warmed to playing on stage. She's done a handful of shows to promote the new album, and there is some talk at the label of a summer tour.

With Ben, Sally and some of their peers, such as Ben's duo partner, David Saw, Simon strives at home to sustain the sense of musical community she reveled in long ago. She's made a series of playful, extremely casual instructional videos in which she teaches viewers, from her home music room, how to play some of her best-known songs on guitar or piano.

Although anyone can make music today thanks to digital recording and computer-editing software, Simon thinks that the give and take among living, breathing musicians has taken a hit.

"The peregrination from dressing room to dressing room was just remarkable," she said of the past. "We'd all teach each other new chords. ... I don't see much of that now."

Charm to spare

LOS ANGELES TIMES

On ABC's "Dirty Sexy Money," Blair Underwood plays the wealthy, dashing and ambiguous Simon Elder.

By MARIA ELENA FERNANDEZ
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—A pregnant woman approached with three tots in tow. "I am so sorry," she said, one hand on her protruding belly, the other covering her mouth. "I love you. I love you," she gushed as she got closer to Blair Underwood, dining at Clementine, a sidewalk cafe in Los Angeles. "It was the funniest thing when you were on that show, `Christine,' " the woman said. "I was dying. The whole time I was dying."

"I was too 'cause I loved it," replied Underwood, who has been toiling in TV and film for two decades and might just get his first Emmy nomination this year, if buzz is a reliable barometer of such things.

The woman referred to Underwood's guest-star stint on CBS's "The New Adventures of Old Christine" this season in which he played Christine's (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) suave, sexy boyfriend, Daniel.

But that was only one of three prominent spots Underwood held on the tube this season.

On ABC's new drama, "Dirty Sexy Money," he plays the wealthy, dashing and ambiguous Simon Elder. On HBO's nine-week series, "In Treatment," which ended in March, he took on Alex Prince, a troubled Navy pilot whose brusque demeanor disguised his profound pain. Week after week, Underwood's exacting portrayal of that duality captured both critics and his peers, leading to industrywide speculation that this could be Underwood's year.

"You know, I've never had that conversation before this year," Underwood said. "So by the grace of God, this is 23 years in the business. These three projects are all projects I'm proud of. It's not just fluff or doing it because you can. So to be able to have the opportunity to do the work and then for people to respond in such a way, to engage in that conversation, is in and of itself a reward to me."

Over the last two decades, Underwood has turned in solid performances on popular TV series such as "L.A. Law" and "Sex and the City," and films like "Full Frontal." In Tyler Perry's "Madea's Family Reunion," he portrayed a charismatic man who secretly beats his wife and later falls apart.

Someone who took notice of that performance was "In Treatment" creator Rodrigo Garcia, who adapted his series about a therapist (Gabriel Byrne) and his patients from a successful Israeli drama.

As Garcia crafted his version, changing a soldier into an American pilot who bombed an Iraqi school under orders—killing 16 children—he thought about Underwood.

"I think that it was easy to cast Blair for that terrific presence, that eloquent way of speaking, the way he conducts himself physically," Garcia said. "But what he brought to Alex that was more than I bargained for was that way of balancing his incredible cockiness with those glimpses of pain and insecurity. He's ... so capable of giving those flashes, these little cracks that go by in a frame, and then you realize that this guy is a pretender."

Instantly, Alex became one of Underwood's favorite characters, but he wondered if viewers would be put off by his abrasiveness. His own father answered that question when one episode compelled him to share with his son that during the Vietnam War, he also had followed orders that led to the deaths of innocent people.

"He got choked up telling me," Underwood said. "This character has traits that address the way many of us men are wired. We come from a place where it's `Don't talk. Man up.' Alex needs to keep coming back to (the therapist) to understand so many things, but it hurts too much.

"That's the tragedy of the character, but it's also why I love the character so much because we're all trying to find the path that leads us to understanding who we are and what we are."

During the filming of each half-hour episode, Underwood often had to deliver lengthy monologues, and Alex grew into a viewer favorite.

"When he broke down, Blair went for broke," Garcia noted of the episode in which Alex finally loses his composure. "It was really moving to see a man like that broken."

'Wonderful Life' actor Bob Anderson, 75

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bob Anderson, who played the young George Bailey in the Christmas classic "It's a Wonderful Life," has died. He was 75.

Anderson died Friday of cancer at his home in Palm Springs, his wife, Victoria, said Saturday.

Robert J. Anderson grew up in a Hollywood family. His father, Gene, was an assistant director and later a production manager. His uncles were directors William Beaudine and James Flood, and his brothers and cousins were editors and production managers.

Anderson was introduced to films when relatives arranged for him to appear in a movie scene that called for a baby, his wife said.

He was 7 when he appeared in the 1940 Shirley Temple film "Young People" and went on to play roles in such films as 1945's "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn."

But he was best known for his role as the young Bailey in Frank Capra's 1946 "It's a Wonderful Life," the same character portrayed in adulthood by James Stewart. In one scene, the story called for him to spot a potentially fatal error made by a drunken druggist, played by H.B. Warner.

Warner took the role seriously and on the day of shooting had been drinking and was "pretty ripe," Victoria Anderson said. The scene called for Warner's character to slap the boy.

Anderson told the Los Angeles Times in 1996 that the scene and its rehearsals were painful.

"He actually bloodied my ear," Anderson told the paper. "My ear was beat up and my face was red, and I was in tears."

"At the end when it was all over, he (Warner) was very lovable. He grabbed me and hugged me, and he meant it," Anderson said.

Anderson enlisted in the Navy during the Korean War, serving as a photographer on aircraft carriers, his wife said.

After the war, he spent four decades in the movie industry. From the 1950s through the 1990s he worked steadily, rising from second assistant director to production manager for movies and TV shows, his wife said.

AP

Bob Anderson, seen here in a 1946 publicity still at the age of 12, and who played George Bailey as a young boy in the Christmas classic "It's a Wonderful Life," died Friday, June 6, 2008, in his Palm Springs, Calif., home. He was 75.

'Alabama' sues drummer for $200K

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP)—The drummer for the country group Alabama has been sued by his fellow band members, who say he was overpaid $202,670.

The lawsuit filed May 9 in the Circuit Court of DeKalb County, Ala., claims that in 2003 Mark Herndon was paid for his share of net merchandise sales during the band's "American Farewell Tour" before a final accounting was done.

The final accounting, the suit claims, found that "there were no net merchandise revenues as defined by the contract."

The lawsuit seeks to recover the money.

The four members of Alabama—Teddy Gentry, Randy Owen, Jeff Cook and Herndon—have not performed together live since the 2003 farewell tour. Band members did gather Saturday for the unveiling of a group of bronze statues in their honor in Fort Payne, Ala.

The lawsuit, which names The Group Alabama Inc. as the plaintiff, also states that Herndon has demanded a payment of $65,047 which represents his share of an advance against anticipated sales of the "The Last Stand" CD, which was recorded live during the farewell tour and is being sold by Cracker Barrel restaurants.

Alabama contends in the lawsuit that this amount and Herndon's share of any future earnings should be withheld until the full amount Herndon was overpaid for merchandise sales is repaid.

Attorney Robert G. Wilson, who filed the lawsuit, said he could not comment.

Members of the band and Herndon's attorney were not immediately available for comment.

Alabama was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2005. Their hits include "Tennessee River," "The Closer You Get" and "Song of the South."

Leaders of No. 2 union OK Hollywood labor contract

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Leaders of Hollywood's second-largest actors union approved a new contract with studios that grants actors more money for Internet work - an issue that sparked a crippling writers strike this year.

The board of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists approved the three-year deal late Friday, and it will go to the union's 70,000 members for ratification this month, the union said Saturday. The existing contract was set to end June 30.

The agreement "makes sense for all performers," AFTRA National President Roberta Reardon said in the statement. "AFTRA members now have the opportunity to vote 'yes' for higher pay, improved working conditions, and continued right of consent for use of excerpts in New Media."

The deal covers only a handful of prime-time TV shows, including HBO's "Curb Your Enthusiasm," the CBS drama "Rules of Engagement" and ABC's "Cashmere Mafia."

The 120,000-member Screen Actors Guild, which is the larger and more combative of Hollywood's two actor unions, continues to negotiate with the studios. It still has the power to shut down Hollywood film production.

The AFTRA agreement largely followed a script laid out in contracts approved by directors in January and by writers after their 100-day strike ended in February.

CELEBRITY EXTRA

By CINDY ELAVSKY
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: I used to watch Joan Lunden on "Good Morning America" years ago. I am wondering what she is doing today.—Joanne R., via e-mail

A: Joan Lunden, who was voted television's favorite morning TV anchor by "Entertainment Weekly" readers, left the popular morning show in 1997 after nearly 17 years. During her tenure, she interviewed every sitting president and first lady from Gerald Ford to then-Texas Gov. George W. Bush. After "GMA," she frequently hosted the A&E series "Behind Closed Doors," as well as "Biography." More recently, hosted the critically acclaimed 2007 news special "America's Invisible Children: The Homeless Education Crisis in America."

Joan, 58, has been married to second husband Jeff Konigsberg since 2000. Twice they have employed a surrogate mother to carry their children—two sets of twins, each consisting of one boy and one girl—once in 2003 and again in 2005. She currently is a spokeswoman for a line of skin-care products by Murad.

■ ■ ■

Q: One of my favorite actors is Clive Owen. I haven't seen him in anything recently. What's up next for him?—Audrey P., Springfield, Ohio

A: The best British export of his generation, Clive has racked up quite an impressive resume since bursting onto the film scene in 1998's "Croupier." But what really got him noticed across the pond was a series of short films that he did for BMW called "The Hire." He played the character "The Driver," and one of the shorts co-starred Madonna and was directed by her husband, Guy Ritchie.

Since then he has starred in numerous films that are on my best-of list, including "Gosford Park," "I'll Sleep When I'm Dead," "Closer," "Children of Men" and "Elizabeth: The Golden Age." He is currently filming the movie "Duplicity" and will soon begin work on "Sin City 2." He is also the new face of Lancome cosmetics' men's line.

Clive Owen

■ ■ ■

Q: It seems like every day we hear about a different celebrity getting busted for DUI or drug possession or something or other. What is going on? It seems to be rampant!—A Reader, via e-mail

A: I know what you mean. Just in the past few months we've seen mugshots for Richie Sambora, Angie Everhart, Thomas Jane and even little Topanga from "Boy Meets World"! Yes, Danielle Fishel was charged with drunk driving in December of last year, however she managed to fly under the radar with that one. The latest in drug busts is Gary Dourdan of "CSI" fame, who was picked up for suspicion of possessing heroin, cocaine, ecstasy and prescription drugs. You know, if you are going to ruin your life with that stuff, at least stay off the roads so the innocent public doesn't have to pay for your poor judgment.

Have a question for Cindy? E-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com, or write to her in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Dad keeps daughter's autism a secret from his parents

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I have a beautiful 3-year-old niece I'll call "Serena." She is my brother "Simon's" daughter. Serena is mildly autistic but has made amazing progress. We're optimistic that she'll be indistinguishable in a few years.

The problem is, Simon is adamant that he does not want our parents to know about Serena's condition. Mom and Dad are good people, but lousy grandparents. Simon thinks they would be judgmental toward him and would gossip about matters he would prefer be kept private. He might be right. But because he is keeping them in the dark, his relationship with them has deteriorated. Our parents haven't seen Serena since she was a baby.

Simon has threatened that if I tell our parents about Serena's autism, he will never speak to me again. That would cost me a relationship not only with him, but also with my niece. I have encouraged him to come clean, but he refuses.

What should I do? Should I stay out of it, or intervene? And is this kind of situation typical with families who have children with special needs?

UNCLE WITH A SECRET

DEAR UNCLE: When a family member is diagnosed with a mental health disorder, some families consider it to be something shameful, and "circle the wagons" to hide it. While it is regrettable, this is the path your brother has chosen. Not knowing your parents' level of sophistication, I'm guessing he may be right about them and that he prefers to allow them into his daughter's life only after her problem has become "indistinguishable in a few years"—if ever.

If you value your relationship with Simon, do not reveal his secret. Obviously he trusts you, or he wouldn't have taken you into his confidence. If you betray him, your relationship will never be the same.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I come from a dysfunctional family. I was never close to my brothers and sister. About 10 years ago, I became friends with a gentleman I'll call "Eric." Our relationship is platonic—we're like siblings. We "talk" almost every day by e-mail because he now lives out of state.

When I mention to my other friends that I have a male friend, I get a funny look because they assume Eric and I are having some kind of affair. They say men and women can't be friends without something sexual going on between them. When I tell them this isn't the case, they don't buy it. What can I say or do to get them to believe me?

TELLING THE TRUTH IN OHIO

DEAR TELLING THE TRUTH: Nothing. So stop arguing. When someone tells you that men and women can't be friends without something sexual going on, that person is telling you something about him- or herself. Obviously, as you already know, there are no hard-and-fast rules governing friendship. Sometimes people have "good chemistry" and click—and this happens with same-sex friendships as well as those with the opposite sex.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Is it ever appropriate for a grandmother to expect payment to baby-sit her grandchildren?

TRYING TO DO THE RIGHT THING

DEAR TRYING: It depends upon the situation and how much time Grandma is devoting to taking care of the children. If the grandmother needs the money, and the amount of time she's tending to the children interferes with her ability to earn a living and provide for her retirement, then by all means she should be paid—and at least minimum wage.

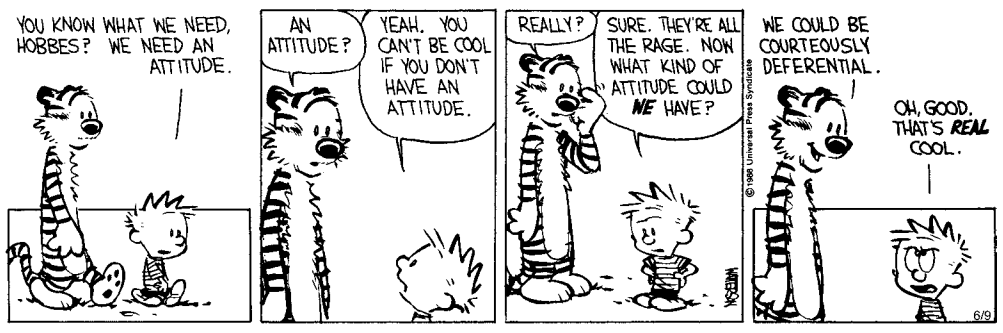
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


YOU KNOW WHAT WE NEED, HOBBES? WE NEED AN ATTITUDE.
AN ATTITUDE?
YEAH. YOU CAN'T BE COOL IF YOU DON'T HAVE AN ATTITUDE.
REALLY?
SURE. THEY'RE ALL THE RAGE. NOW WHAT KIND OF ATTITUDE COULD ME HAVE?
WE COULD BE COURTEOUSLY DEFERENTIAL.
OH, GOOD. THAT'S REAL COOL.
6/9

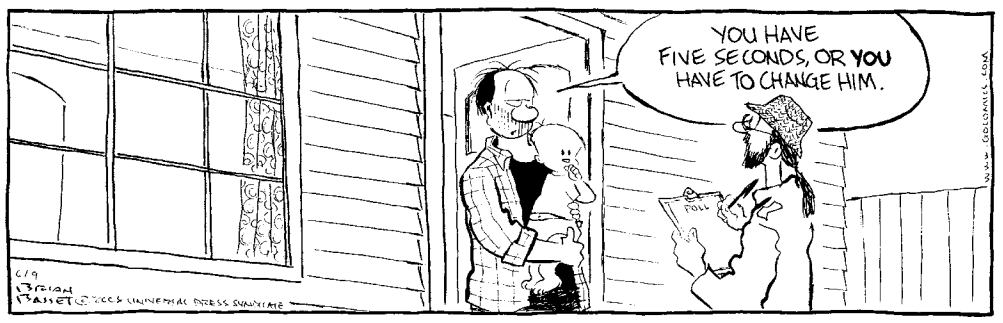
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

YEP, YOUR BIRTHDAY'S COMING. CALENDARS DON'T LIE
June
HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT?
YES, I HAVE...
BUT, OH, WAIT! THEY HAVEN'T INVENTED TIME MACHINES YET, HAVE THEY?!
June
6-9

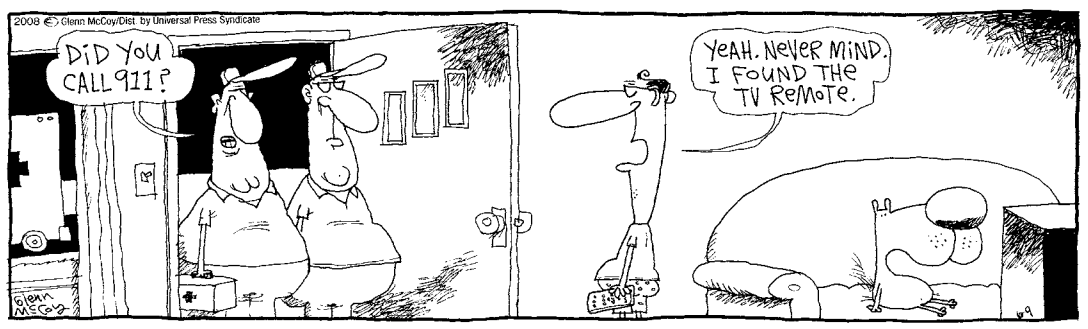
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

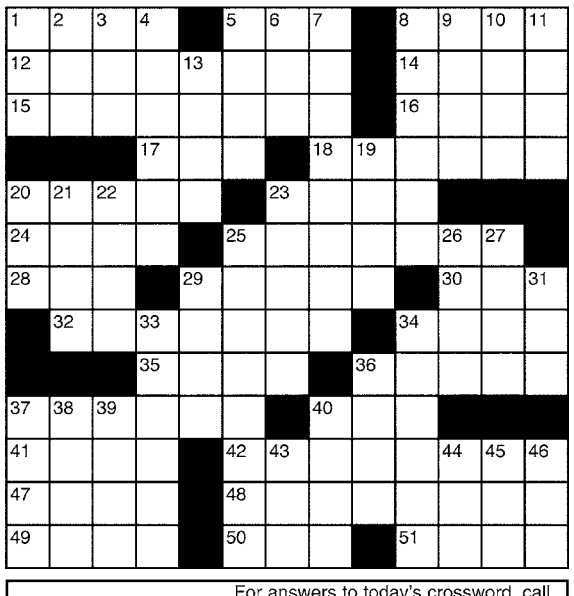
ACROSS
1 Tibetan monk
5 "— & Order: Criminal Intent"
8 Imperfection
12 Opposite of "sustain," in a courtroom
14 Highway division
15 Octopus' arm
16 Bits and pieces
17 Saute
18 Persian Gulf state
20 Ill-deserved
23 Kelly or Rayburn
24 Authentic
25 Spirally plant stem
28 "Platoon" locale
29 Surpass
30 Filch from
32 Lease signatories
34 Corrupt
35 Therefore
36 Supermarket section
37 Part of RAM
40 Hostel
41 Fat
42 "Enoch Arden" poet
47 Verbal
48 Climbing the fort walls?
49 Kathryn of 5-Across
50 To the — degree
51 Leftovers recipe

DOWN
1 Realtor's offering
2 "Hail!"
3 Chaps
4 Wily
5 Linus' sister
6 Every iota
7 Time off, for many
8 Bouquet component
9 "Doctor Zhivago" role
10 Opposed to
11 Into the sunset
13 Exceptional
19 Destroy
20 Coffeeshop vessel
21 Tidy
22 Lord's wife
23 Reach
25 Wolfram
26 Rainbow
27 Just hang about
29 Galley tools
31 Hive denizen
33 Thread transporter
34 Old 45s, e.g.
36 Kournikova of tennis
37 Lotion additive
38 Singer Vikki
39 Grouch
40 Part of the foot?
43 Superlative suffix
44 Perched
45 Praise in verse
46 Fresh

Solution time: 24 mins.

C	R	O	P	■	S	I	N	G	■	A	D	S
H	E	R	R	■	A	D	I	T	■	B	E	T
I	N	F	O	■	M	E	M	O	■	E	M	U
T	O	F	F	■	B	A	R	■	C	L	O	D
■	■	■	E	T	A	■	O	H	O	■	■	■
H	O	R	S	E	S	■	■	D	E	N	T	A	L
A	B	U	S	E	■	■	■	A	F	I	R	E
M	I	N	I	M	A	■	E	V	E	N	E	D
■	■	■	O	S	U	■	Y	E	S	■	■	■
J	O	H	N	■	R	Y	E	■	S	U	I	T
A	P	E	■	C	O	O	L	■	I	N	C	A
D	U	N	■	U	R	G	E	■	O	D	O	R
E	S	S	■	B	A	I	T	■	N	O	N	O

Saturday's answer 6-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Natalie Portman, 27; Johnny Depp, 45; Michael J. Fox, 47; Dick Vitale, 69

Happy Birthday: There are important decisions to be made that will shape the rest of your life. Your intuition will be coaxing you along so listen to that small voice within. A financial or partnership adjustment should be the beginning of a new phase for you. Happiness is within reach if you make the right choices. Your numbers are 4, 16, 18, 20, 35, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You have to push for what you want but, once you do, things will start to happen. Actions will overcome any mishap or setback. Come up with solutions quickly and implement them before anyone has a chance to stand in your way. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take the initiative and jump in with both feet. You'll figure it out as you go along. Be vocal about your feelings and what you would like to see happen. Children may influence a decision you must make. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): If you let your emotions take hold, you will make the wrong decision. Be a powerhouse, not a pushover and you will stay on top and in control. Don't let changes others make throw you off guard or alter your plans. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Listen to the people you know you can trust. A trip will help you close a deal or engage in talks, leading to professional advancement. Honesty and openness will play a major role, so stick to the truth. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Talks may appear to be leading somewhere exciting but, before you put your plans into motion, make sure everything is feasible. You don't want to end up out of pocket, position or place because you believe false information or promises being made. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll have mixed emotions about what you want to do next. You are doing better than you think. Start listing your attributes and believing in your abilities and you will advance quickly. Changes at home will be beneficial. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Love is in the stars and travel and adventure should be your goal. You can meet new people, make new friends and even fall in love in the right setting. A creative deal will come through for you. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): There is a chance that you can make a positive professional or financial change if you are diligent about your path today. Don't take no for an answer. Push for what you want and what you feel will work. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may have to juggle in order to get your way but, if you are quick with your responses and eager to help others, you will maintain control. Stick to the truth, act fast and don't leave room for error. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Good ideas can turn into profits. An issue with a close relative can be resolved. Dealings with institutions, banks or government agencies will help you get necessary paperwork out of the way. You can proceed in a direction of greater power with the potential to earn more money. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Less talk and more action will position you better with your relationships. Love can reach all time highs as long as you don't make assumptions or overreact to trivial comments. Don't let insecurity be your downfall. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't make statements based on what you think might be going on. Alterations may lead you in the wrong direction, causing problems with friends or family. You are better off spending time on something productive that will help you out in business. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are playful, witty and bright. You are intuitive, imaginative and inventive. You are strong, competitive and entertaining.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2	4			1	9		3	5
		6				7		
		5	6			8		
8			9		1	5		
9			5		3			6
		7	8		4			3
		1			5	3		
		9				2		
5	6		2	8			4	9

Difficulty Level ★ 6/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	7	8	3	6	1	2	4	9
6	1	4	5	2	9	7	8	3
9	2	3	4	8	7	5	1	6
3	9	6	8	5	4	1	7	2
1	8	5	2	7	6	9	3	4
7	4	2	1	9	3	6	5	8
4	6	9	7	3	5	8	2	1
2	5	1	6	4	8	3	9	7
8	3	7	9	1	2	4	6	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/07

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HEDGE FUNDS **Solution: 9 letters**

S	E	E	F	E	C	N	A	R	U	S	N	I	C	L
E	H	F	Y	E	N	O	M	S	K	S	I	R	O	I
C	U	A	A	O	S	S	N	R	T	N	D	N	I	M
N	R	C	R	S	T	R	A	N	D	M	E	O	L	I
A	D	T	M	E	U	M	E	E	T	O	V	I	O	T
T	L	S	S	T	H	M	X	V	R	G	I	T	F	E
S	E	S	E	C	T	O	A	T	A	D	A	A	T	K
M	A	R	N	S	A	S	L	I	D	S	T	M	R	R
U	D	E	E	S	W	L	N	D	E	H	I	R	O	A
C	B	V	T	A	I	S	L	(R)	E	O	O	O	P	M
R	N	U	P	B	O	N	D	S	(A)	R	N	F	T	A
I	P	S	N	O	I	T	U	T	I	(T)	S	N	I	N
C	O	N	V	E	R	G	E	N	C	E	(E)	I	O	A
N	O	I	T	U	A	C	T	R	A	C	K	I	N	G
T	L	Y	P	E	R	C	E	N	T	A	G	E	S	E

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Assets, Averse, Benchmarks, Bonds, Calls, Caution, Circumstances, Convergence, Data, Deviations, Facts, Fees, Gains, Hurdle, Index, Information, Institutions, Insurance, Investment, Limit, Manage, Market, Money, Options, Percentages, Pool, Portfolio, Puts, Rate, Returns, Risk, Safe, Shareholders, Short, Swaps, Tracking, Trade

Last Saturday's Answer: Discover

To order **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 15, 22, 23, 24, 25 or 26**, send $5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6688. Order online at upuzzles.com. (Contain 43 puzzles, 9 of which are the larger, 20 x 20 size)

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment Room for Rent
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Tel. # 288-0728-Yoon Won Suck

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

WHATZIT Solution:
No idea

FOR SALE

BUD'S BAR For Sale
$15,000 all inclusive. Stop by to see for yourself. Contact LES @ 898-4866

FOR RENT

ONE BR. APT. NEAR MHS, in a quiet, secure area behind Calvo's Market, off Texas Rd. 24hrs. govt. & rain water. Fully air conditioned and furnished with walk in closets. All rooms also have ceiling fans. Has its own washing machine, $425. **Call Ed at 235-0409.**

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3-LINER AD W/ PHOTO $45
5-LINER AD $35
5-LINER AD W/ PHOTO $55

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Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	**COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)**
• 3-Liner	**$25**
• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$55**

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	**$13.00**
2nd position	**$5.00**
Succeeding positions	**$2.00**

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for $.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

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Da' Tara spoils Big Brown's bid for Triple Crown

Jockey Alan Garcia rides Da'Tara down the stretch to win the 140th Belmont Stakes at Belmont Park in Elmont, N.Y. on Saturday, June 7, 2008. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—When Big Brown turned for home, something wasn't right. Jockey Kent Desormeaux knew the big bay colt was finished. Trainer Rick Dutrow Jr., who guaranteed racing's first Triple Crown in 30 years, knew it, too.

Big Brown straggled home last Saturday, losing the Belmont Stakes to 38-1 long shot Da' Tara, who led wire-to-wire. Eased up in the homestretch, the 1-4 favorite was so far behind at the end that his margin of defeat wasn't even charted.

"He was empty. He didn't have anything left," Desormeaux said. "There's no popped tires. He's just out of gas."

Big Brown arrived at Belmont Park undefeated in five starts, winning all of them by a combined 39 lengths. His path to history seemed even more certain when unbeaten Casino Drive was scratched in the morning because of a bruised left hind hoof.

But he ran third most of the way until Desormeaux asked him for one of his explosive runs on the far turn of Belmont's 1 1/2 miles, the longest and toughest of the three classics.

"I had no horse," Desormeaux said, in stark contrast to Dutrow's unabashed pronouncements that a Triple Crown was "a foregone conclusion."

Instead of becoming the 12th Triple Crown winner and first in 30 years, Big Brown was the first horse going for a Triple to finish dead last, stunning 94,476 fans who braved the unseasonable 88-degree heat and oppressive humidity.

"He wasn't himself," winning trainer Nick Zito said. "Things happen for a reason."

Big Brown was running on a quarter crack in his left front hoof that wasn't patched until Friday, but Dutrow insisted even on the way to the starting gate that it was a "non-issue."

Nevertheless, it cost the colt three days of training between the Preakness and the Belmont. Desormeaux said Big Brown "was in no way, shape or form lame or sore. But there's something amiss, probably just tired."

Dutrow had been criticized for admitting he used a legal steroid on Big Brown, although the horse hadn't had a dose since April. Dutrow spoke only briefly after the race, and he wasn't asked whether discontinuing the drug had an affect on Big Brown's performance.

Big Brown's defeat extended the Triple Crown drought that began after Affirmed completed the elusive sweep in 1978.

"I feel for them. It doesn't always go the way you want," Steve Cauthen, who rode Affirmed, said by telephone from his Kentucky home. "I think someday a horse will come along and do it. One day it will happen. I really thought this was the horse."

Clearly, so did Dutrow.

The veteran trainer didn't speak when the race ended, walking quickly through the crowd with his eyes focused straight ahead as he tried to reach the track. Later, as Big Brown walked around the barn, Dutrow leaned on a wood railing, his head down, his blue dress shirt soaked with sweat, a look of disbelief on his face. Exercise rider Michelle Nevin stood silently next to him.

"Something has to not be right for him to be pulled up in a race, so I have to try to find out what it was," he said. "I'm sure it's not the horse's fault, so there's nothing to be down on him."

Big Brown, eager in the early going, ran up on Da' Tara's heels heading into the first turn—the first indication it wasn't going to be his coronation day.

Then Desormeaux tried to swing Big Brown wide to the outside and bumped Tale of Ekati in the turn.

Ridden by Alan Garcia, Da' Tara had the lead down the backstretch, with Tale of Ekati second and Big Brown third on the outside with a clear path. This was Big Brown's moment, and Desormeaux asked him to go.

"When I got outside going into the first turn, I said, `This is it. The race is over. I got it,'" Desormeaux said.

Except Big Brown didn't respond.

Da' Tara opened up a clear lead turning for home, while Big Brown angled to the far outside under restraint. Big Brown still wanted to run, but Desormeaux knew it was over and focused on getting the colt home safely.

Big Brown was taken to a detention barn after the race for observation and will undergo various tests.

Dutrow said he didn't see a problem "and I'm looking for one."

"He looked fine," said Dr. Larry Bramlage, the on-call veterinarian. "All I saw was when Desormeaux started to slow him down. The first thing you expected is something is wrong. He was not lame when he stopped here in front of the stands."

Dutrow reflected on the Triple Crown that eluded yet another horse.

"We did really good with him winning the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness," he said. "This is a very disappointing race. Now, it looks like he's fine. It looks like he'll live a good life even if he never runs again."

Da' Tara, the longest shot on the board, won by 5 1/4 lengths over Denis of Cork and covered the distance in 2:29.65. There was a dead heat for third between Anak Nakal and Ready's Echo. Macho Again was fifth, followed by Tale of Ekati, Guadalcanal, Icabad Crane and Big Brown.

Da' Tara paid $79, $28 and $14.80. Denis of Cork returned $5.80 and $4.10. Anak Nakal paid $7.60 and Ready's Echo returned $6.20.

Zito spoiled a Triple Crown bid four years ago when he saddled Birdstone to an upset of Smarty Jones. He also trained Anak Nakal.

"If Big Brown was himself, he would've been tough to beat," Zito said, "but he wasn't himself. That's why they play the game."

Celtics star Pierce says he'll be ready for Game 2

BOSTON (AP)—In the past two days, New England's most celebrated right knee—and to this point, the focal point of the NBA finals—has been encased in ice, undergone electrical stimulation therapy, even had lasers fired at it.

Paul Pierce's knee has been primped, prodded and pampered like never before.

It's not 100 percent, but it's good enough.

Pierce, who sprained his knee and made a dramatic return in Boston's series-opening win over the Los Angeles Lakers after being carried off the floor in the second half, said Saturday that he will "definitely" play in Game 2 on Sunday.

"Once those lights come on and the popcorn starts popping, I'll be ready," declared the Celtics' All-Star forward and captain.

Wearing a black elastic brace and white sleeve over his injury, Pierce reported that his knee was less swollen. He's still not able to bend it the way he'd like, but Pierce feels with another 24 hours of rest and treatment that he'll be able to start.

How effective he'll be is another story.

"Knowing my threshold of pain, to go out there and play shouldn't be a problem," said Pierce, who only planned to shoot free throws and walk through some plays on Saturday. "It should be something I should be able to do."

Celtics center Kendrick Perkins also expects to be in the starting lineup after spraining his left ankle in Game 1.

Following his news conference, Pierce walked gingerly toward the court in TD Banknorth Garden with only the slightest sign of a limp. When he finally joined his teammates on the floor, Pierce grabbed a ball and was soon being playfully guarded by teammate Sam Cassell, who jammed his forearm into Pierce's back and dared him to shoot.

"You gonna talk all day?" Cassell chirped, "or are you gonna ball?"

Pierce's playing status, and skepticism about the severity of his injury, have been the dominant topics of conversation in the renewed rivalry between the Lakers and Celtics, who are meeting in the finals for the first time since 1987.

On Friday, Los Angeles coach Phil Jackson raised a few eyebrows by wondering if Pierce had been overly dramatic about the injury.

Moments after he was lifted from the floor by teammates and placed in a wheelchair, Pierce jogged back out of the tunnel to a thundering ovation and quickly made consecutive 3-pointers as the Celtics took control and went on to a 98-88 win. Jackson dismissed comparisons between Pierce's comeback and one made by Willis Reed in the 1970 NBA finals, and even joked that noted faith healer Oral Roberts must have been in Boston's locker room to perform a miracle.

Jackson said he had not received any negative feedback about his pithy comments, which he hoped were being taken in the proper vain.

"Well, we really should have a lot of fun about this; this is sports, after all," Jackson said. "These are fun and games. "I kid the NBA about taking the fun out of the finals, but this is still fun. We try to make this fun."

Fun? The Lakers and Celtics? They're supposed to feud and fight, right?

Back in the 1980s during the height of their rivalry, the idea of laughter and any good-natured kidding between the clubs would have been greeted with a sharp elbow to the ribs. But these days, the league's signature franchises aren't nearly as blood thirsty as their predecessors.

Gone are the days when the showers in the visiting locker room at the old Boston Garden dispensed only cold water, and Lakers players no longer have to worry about being turned away at local restaurants because of their affiliation to the purple-and-gold.

"Beat L.A." remains this city's rallying cry. The hatred, though, seems to have been replaced by a kind of harmony.

"I've heard stories in the past of them coming here and not getting room service and stuff like that," Kobe Bryant said. "I mean, my room service is cool. I got the nice apple pie with the ice cream on top, a la mode. I didn't even ask for the ice cream, but they hooked me up.

"I've heard horror stories in the '80s when the guys came here. It's not like that. There's a healthy competition, and they obviously want to win, the city wants to win, but it's not like, 'I hate your guts.'"

Boston fans would show more love for Bryant, if the superstar continues to struggle with his outside shot.

He went just 9-for-26 in Game 1 and has only made 33 percent (24-of-72) of his attempts in three games—all losses—against the Celtics this season. It would be hard to imagine Bryant having another clunker, and Jackson wouldn't even consider the possibility.

"He's been an unstoppable force in this game," Jackson said. "He usually doesn't have two games in a row that are bad. He comes back and plays better. So we anticipate that's going to be a pattern."

The Celtics, too, are expecting a more consistent effort from Kevin Garnett, their defensive leader who may have to carry more of the offensive load if Pierce is slowed by his bad knee. Garnett started strongly in Game 1 and finished with 24 points and 13 rebounds. But he was only 3-for-13 in the second half, missing nine consecutive shots in one stretch and went only 1-of-6 from the floor in the fourth quarter.

Garnett has promised to make amends for his poor finish, and Pierce is sure the ultra-intense KG will keep his word.

"He's so hard on himself. He wants to play the perfect game," Pierce said. "We're all like that in our ways. And if a bad game is 24 and 13, I can't wait until he has a good game."

South African Clark takes 1-shot lead at St. Jude

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Tim Clark isn't thinking about how close he has come to winning his first PGA Tour title only to come up short. The South African's approach? He will win—eventually.

If Clark plays his final round as he finished up Saturday, that just might happen at the Stanford St. Jude Championship.

On a day that started with six players tied for the lead and 52 within six strokes of the top, Clark broke a logjam at the top by finishing a bogey-free 6-under 64 with three birdies and an eagle on his final five holes. Then he watched as his 5-under 205 total held up for a two-stroke lead.

"I feel like I've given myself chances to win," said Clark, who has finished second or tied for second six times—most recently at the Colonial. "Just going to take the position that it's going to happen at some stage. I just need to go out and play and see what happens come the end of the week."

Five players have made this tournament their first tour win, the last Dicky Pride in 1994.

This is Clark's 157th start on tour. He has won more than $10.5 million since joining the tour in 2002, with one of his runner-up finishes coming in the 2006 Masters. This is the second time he has had the lead after 54 holes, sharing the lead with Rich Beam at the 2050 Funai Classic.

"Whoever is going to be leading is going to have a chance," Clark said. "I think whoever plays the best golf tomorrow is going to win the tournament.

Gusting wind that had made par a valuable score through the first two rounds eased enough to make club selection a bit easier, but the wind often came up or changed directions at the wrong time. With the greens firming up even more in heat feeling like 100 degrees, scoring consistently remained a problem with 15 players under par through 54 holes.

Clark will play in the final round Sunday with countryman Trevor Immelman, the Masters champ. Immelman had his own opportunity to grab a share of the lead but bogeyed No. 18 to finish with a 67. He was tied at 207 with Bill Haas (67), Alex Cejka (69) and two of the second-round leaders in tour rookie Marc Turnesa (70) and Gavin Coles (70).

Immelman said he's finally started to play again the past two weeks after dealing with all the attention and demands following his win at Augusta. But he called it amazing that Clark hasn't won on tour after watching him win everything in South Africa.

"It's only a matter of time," Immelman said. "This is the kind of course that sets up well for him. He's a good ball striker, great hitter. When it gets windy, those are what you need."

Vijay Singh (70), 2005 winner Justin Leonard (67), Stephen Ames (68) and Dean Wilson (71) were three strokes back at 208.

Clark started the day at 1 over and got to even with a birdie on the par-4 second. He strung together 11 straight pars before he finally got to scoring.

Hoping for par on the par-3 14th with water guarding the front of the green, Clark rolled in a 28-footer from the left fringe for birdie. He followed with a 12-footer on No. 15 that dropped him to 2 under.

The big swing came on the 530-yard par-5 16th.

Clark had 248 yards to the hole for his second shot, pulled a 5-wood and hit it within 5 feet pin-high. His eagle putt dropped him to 4 under and into a four-way tie for the lead with Haas, Coles and Wilson. Clark took the lead to himself when he stuck a 9-iron from 147 yards to 4 feet, which he sunk for birdie and to finish off a 64 that matched the lowest score shot here this week.

Coles shot the other 64 and noted how his round pushed him from 69th to tied for the lead after 36 holes.

"Look what Tim did today. He went from 1 over to leading the golf tournament ... Someone gets shooting well, not necessarily hot, someone who just plays the golf course smart and putts well, they ... could walk away with a nice prize," Coles said.

The six-way tie had been the most at any round on the PGA Tour since six were tied through 36 holes at the 2007 Shell Houston Open.

That resulted in an all-out scramble with the lead changing out nearly every hole with two- and three-way ties for the top of the leaderboard. First it was Coles, then Wilson held a solo lead. It became a four-way tie when Clark eagled the par-5 16th, and he became the clubhouse leader finishing up at 5 under with a 64 that matched the low round at this tournament so far.

Then Turnesa birdied the par-5 15th and joined Clark at 5 under. Turnesa had his own chance to take the lead at the 16th but hit his second shot right of the green into the rough. His third shot across the green to the rough, and he couldn't sink a 9-footer to save par.

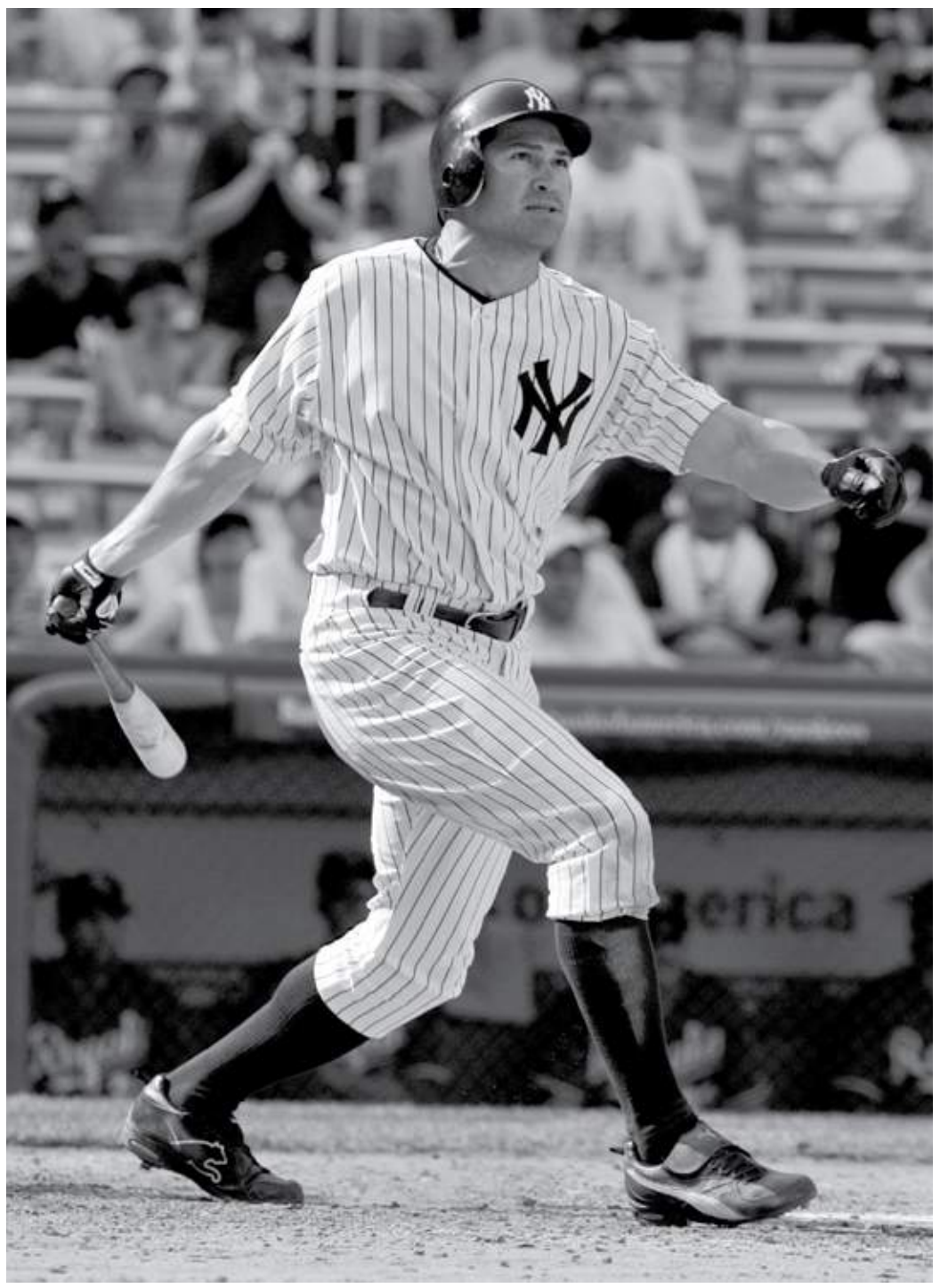
Damon goes 6-for-6, drives in winner as Yankees edge Royals

NEW YORK (AP)—New York leftfielder Johnny Damon went 6-for-6, including the game-winning single in the bottom of the ninth inning, rallying the Yankees to a 12-11 win over the Kansas City Royals in the American League on Saturday.

New York overcame a pair of four-run deficits and a huge game by Kansas City's Jose Guillen, who hit a tiebreaking grand slam in the seventh and matched a franchise record with seven RBIs.

The Royals went ahead 11-10 with a home run on the first pitch in the top of the ninth before the Yankees drew level with one out in the bottom of the inning.

With two outs, a walk and an infield single brought Damon to the plate, and he pulled a pitch into the right-field corner for his sixth hit, setting a career high and equaling a Yankees record now accomplished three times.



AP

New York Yankees' Johnny Damon watches his game-winning single against the Kansas City Royals during the ninth inning of a baseball game at Yankee Stadium in New York, Saturday, June 7, 2008.

Angels 5, Athletics 3

In Oakland, California, Los Angeles beat Oakland to win its seventh straight game.

Angels pitcher Jon Garland allowed only two runs in seven-plus innings, with eight strikeouts and just one walk to remain unbeaten in his past seven starts.

Maicer Izturis hit a leadoff homer for the second straight game, putting Los Angeles on track for a win that moved it 5-1/2 games ahead of the Athletics in AL West standings.

White Sox 11, Twins 2

In Chicago, the home side crunched Minnesota to bring up its fifth straight win.

Joe Crede hit two homers for the second straight game and had six RBIs for the White Sox.

Red Sox 11, Mariners 3

In Boston, Manny Ramirez hit his 504th career homer as Boston downed Seattle.

Knuckleball pitcher Tim Wakefield baffled most of Seattle's hitters for seven innings, allowing two runs and striking out six.

Tigers 8, Indians 4

In Detroit, the home team snapped a four-game losing streak with a win over Cleveland.

Edgar Renteria's grand slam keyed a six-run eighth inning for the Tigers.

Orioles 9, Blue Jays 5

In Toronto, Baltimore brought up its third straight win by downing Toronto.

Jay Payton had five RBIs for the Orioles, while Jeremy Guthrie pitched seven strong innings, allowing only one run, striking out six and walking none.

Rays 5, Rangers 4

In Arlington, Texas, Willy Aybar hit a tiebreaking two-run double in the eighth inning as Tampa Bay held on to beat Texas.

Dodgers 7, Cubs 3

In Los Angeles, Matt Kemp capped a five-run seventh inning with a three-run homer, Russell Martin also went deep and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat Carlos Zambrano and the Cubs.

Martin finished with three RBIs as the Dodgers sent Zambrano to his first loss in 11 starts. Derek Lowe (4-5) allowed three runs and six hits through seven innings, striking out four and walking two.

Phillies 6, Braves 2

In Atlanta, Chase Utley's eighth-inning triple drove in Shane Victorino with the go-ahead run and Philadelphia hit three home runs to beat Atlanta.

The NL East-leading Phillies are 4-1 against the Braves this season. The Phillies are the first team this season to win the first two games of a series in Atlanta. The Braves are 25-10 in those games.

Marlins 8, Reds 7

In Miami, Cody Ross hit a two-out, two-run homer in the ninth inning and Florida came from behind to beat Cincinnati.

Ross's home run, off closer Francisco Cordero (2-1), came on an 0-1 pitch and drove in Dan Uggla from first. The Marlins started the inning down 7-5, and closed within a run when Jorge Cantu scored on a sacrifice fly by Luis Gonzalez. Cantu had doubled to lead off the inning.

Rockies 7, Brewers 2

In Denver, Brad Hawpe hit a grand slam, Ian Stewart launched a solo homer into the third deck and Greg Reynolds got his first major league win in Colorado's victory over Milwaukee.

Reynolds (1-3) baffled hitters all evening, limiting Milwaukee to two runs and four hits over six innings. Reynolds, the second overall pick in the 2006 draft, had his sinker working, breaking four Brewer bats as he picked up his first win in six starts.

Diamondbacks 4, Pirates 3

In Pittsburgh, Chris Snyder hit a home run to lead off the ninth inning, giving Arizona a victory over Pittsburgh.

The Arizona catcher hit a 1-1 pitch into the left-field seats off reliever John Grabow (4-2) for his sixth home run of the season. The Diamondbacks, who blew a 3-0 lead, beat Pittsburgh for the second straight night.

Cardinals 8, Astros 4

In Houston, Adam Wainwright shut down Houston before leaving with a sprained finger and Ryan Ludwick hit a three-run homer to help the Cardinals beat the Astros.

Troy Glaus also homered and Skip Schumaker had a single, double and two-run triple for the Cardinals, who beat the Astros for the ninth time in the last 13 meetings.

Giants 6, Nationals 0

In Washington, John Bowker's grand slam capped a six-run eighth inning and Jonathan Sanchez won his third straight start for the Giants.

Sanchez (5-3) allowed four singles, walked two and struck out four in seven innings. Rich Aurilia finished with three hits for San Francisco, relied on a big inning for the second straight night to again subdue the Nationals.

25-and-under, Rotary caging about to start

The Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands will soon kick off action in the 25-and-under Basketball League and the Saipan Rotary Club Summer Youth Basketball League.

With this in mind, the islands' basketball governing body is calling on all interested teams that would like to participate in the upcoming youth leagues to start preparing.

Entrance fee for the 25-and-under cage league is $800, while that for the Rotary league is $200.

While there is no date yet set for the start of the 25-and-under league, the Rotary cage competition is set to unfurl on July 7. Teams should be ready to present documents such as birth certificates or other proof of age as well as waiver forms to the organizing committee.

This year's Rotary caging will adopt a two age group format—Division I (age group for 12 to 14 years old) and Division II (age group for 15 to 18).

For more inquiries about the 25-and-under Basketball League and the Saipan Rotary Club Summer Youth Basketball League, contact coordinators Abner Venus at 483-4906 or Elias Rangamar at 664-2502. ***(Mark Rabago)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	39	26	.600	_
Tampa Bay	37	25	.597	1/2
Baltimore	31	30	.508	6
Toronto	32	32	.500	6 1/2
New York	31	31	.500	6 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	35	26	.574	_
Minnesota	31	31	.500	4 1/2
Cleveland	28	34	.452	7 1/2
Detroit	25	36	.410	10
Kansas City	24	38	.387	11 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	39	24	.619	_
Oakland	33	29	.532	5 1/2
Texas	31	33	.484	8 1/2
Seattle	22	40	.355	16 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	38	26	.594	_
Florida	33	28	.541	3 1/2
Atlanta	32	31	.508	5 1/2
New York	30	31	.492	6 1/2
Washington	25	38	.397	12 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	39	24	.619	_
St. Louis	37	27	.578	2 1/2
Milwaukee	32	30	.516	6 1/2
Houston	32	31	.508	7
Cincinnati	30	33	.476	9
Pittsburgh	29	33	.468	9 1/2

West Division

Arizona	34	28	.548	_
Los Angeles	30	32	.484	4
San Francisco	27	35	.435	7
San Diego	27	37	.422	8
Colorado	24	38	.387	10

Yesterday's Games

L.A. Dodgers 7, Chicago Cubs 3
Arizona 4, Pittsburgh 3
St. Louis 8, Houston 4
Florida 8, Cincinnati 7
Philadelphia 6, Atlanta 2
San Francisco 6, Washington 0
Colorado 7, Milwaukee 2
San Diego 2, N.Y. Mets 1, 10 innings
N.Y. Yankees 12, Kansas City 11
Baltimore 9, Toronto 5
Boston 11, Seattle 3
Detroit 8, Cleveland 4
Chicago White Sox 11, Minnesota 2
Tampa Bay 5, Texas 4
L.A. Angels 5, Oakland 3

ST JUDE CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP)–Scores after Saturday's third round of the St. Jude Championship, a $6 million (£4 million) U.S. PGA event at 7,239-yard, par-70 TPC Southwind:

THIRD ROUND

Tim Clark	72-69-64	205
Trevor Immelman	74-66-67	207
Bill Haas	71-69-67	207
Alex Cejka	69-69-69	207
Gavin Coles	73-64-70	207
Marc Turnesa	68-69-70	207
Justin Leonard	68-73-67	208
Stephen Ames	69-71-68	208
Vijay Singh	67-71-70	208
Dean Wilson	69-68-71	208
Padraig Harrington	71-72-66	209
Boo Weekley	65-75-69	209
Brandt Snedeker	69-71-69	209
Bob Estes	74-65-70	209
Jason Dufner	69-68-72	209
Scott Verplank	71-72-67	210
Jeff Gove	70-73-67	210
Tim Herron	74-67-69	210
J.P. Hayes	70-71-69	210
Omar Uresti	70-69-71	210
Michael Letzig	70-68-72	210
Tommy Armour III	66-71-73	210
Jin Park	73-71-67	211
Bob Tway	72-71-68	211
Bob Heintz	73-70-68	211
Robert Allenby	71-71-69	211
Kenny Perry	71-71-69	211
Jeff Overton	70-71-70	211
Sergio Garcia	68-72-71	211
Glen Day	69-71-71	211
Jim McGovern	71-68-72	211
Bart Bryant	69-76-67	212
Stuart Appleby	68-76-68	212
Kevin Streelman	74-69-69	212
Brett Rumford	69-73-70	212
Dan Forsman	70-70-72	212
Rich Beem	71-72-70	213
Brian Gay	76-67-70	213
Vaughn Taylor	70-72-71	213
Camilo Villegas	71-71-71	213
Scott Sterling	70-70-73	213
Davis Love III	68-70-75	213
Michael Bradley	69-68-76	213
Garrett Willis	72-73-69	214
Richard S. Johnson	72-73-69	214
Fredrik Jacobson	73-72-69	214
Bob May	75-69-70	214
Marco Dawson	71-71-72	214
Craig Kanada	68-72-74	214
Heath Slocum	73-67-74	214
Brandt Jobe	71-74-70	215
Charley Hoffman	69-75-71	215
Tom Pernice, Jr.	72-72-71	215
Troy Matteson	74-70-71	215
David Toms	72-72-71	215
Patrick Sheehan	73-70-72	215
Jeff Maggert	71-70-74	215
John Huston	71-69-75	215
Jimmy Walker	70-74-72	216
Woody Austin	71-72-73	216
Lucas Glover	71-71-74	216
Harrison Frazar	72-70-74	216
Todd Demsey	73-72-72	217
David Duval	70-75-72	217
Stephen Leaney	70-74-73	217
Jonathan Byrd	69-75-73	217
Ken Duke	72-72-73	217
Billy Andrade	76-68-73	217
Brad Elder	69-76-73	218
Webb Simpson	71-72-75	218
Eric Axley	70-71-78	219
Dicky Pride	75-70-75	220
Brenden Pappas	73-70-77	220

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

BSML STANDINGS

Rock Steady	10	0
Ford Rangers	8	3
Tanapag Falcons	6	4
San Roque D9ers	5	4
Koreans Dreams	6	5
Komoro	4	7
Team Kabur	2	10
O'Conner Tigers	1	9

IVANOVIC

From Page 28

score was 4-all.

"It was tough, because a lot of emotions build up inside," said Ivanovic, who was seeded No. 2 behind Sharapova at the French Open but will pass her in Monday's rankings. "All of a sudden, you're equal again. So to keep my composure at that point—it was huge for me."

In the very next game, Ivanovic broke back with a backhand winner of her own, then pumped her fist and let out one of her many yelps of "Hajde!" (sounds like "HIGH-deh!")—Serbian for "Come on!"

There were more tests to come.

Trying to serve out the first set, Ivanovic faced two break points, and squandered a set point, before closing it out with her signature shot, a forehand. That was part of a run in which Ivanovic took five of six games to go ahead 3-1 in the second set.

The final instance in which nerves might have come into play was in the seventh game of the second set, a 20-point tussle in which Ivanovic wasted two break points and Safina blew five game points. Adding to the tension, Safina kept backing out of her serving motion because the sobs of a child crying in the upper deck could be heard throughout the stadium. Eventually, Safina held to cut Ivanovic's lead to 4-3.

Potentially uplifting for Safina. Potentially deja vu for Ivanovic.

"Mental games out there today," Ivanovic said.

She remembered to stop and breathe and played with aplomb down the stretch, winning eight of the next nine points to end the match.

"Once you are on the court—it's much easier said than done—but you have to be a killer," Ivanovic said through a wide smile. "You have to put them under pressure and show your presence and stuff."

It might have helped Saturday that the recently retired Henin was in the front row in a red jacket, not on the court wielding a racket.

Safina sure can wallop the ball, but she's hardly as complete a player as four-time French Open champion Henin, and never made it past the quarterfinals at any Grand Slam tournament until this one.

Nonetheless, Safina was trying to become the first woman to win a major title after having saved a match point against two opponents. Against both Sharapova in the fourth round, and No. 7 Elena Dementieva in the quarterfinals, Safina trailed by a set and 5-2 in the second set, then was a point from losing at 5-3, before coming all the way back to complete the upsets.

Those were part of a 12-match winning streak Safina carried into Saturday, including six victories over top-10 opponents.

"This time? I tried," Safina said, "but I didn't have any more of that fire."

When it was over, Ivanovic stood on a line judge's chair to climb into the stands for hugs and kisses with her parents, her brother and other supporters.

She spoke afterward about the days when she rode her bicycle to practice, thinking of being a champion one day. Those dreams might have seemed far away when, growing up in a war-torn land, Ivanovic honed her tennis skills in the winter by practicing on the floor of a drained indoor swimming pool.

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out to shortstop Vicente Cruz.

Tinian, however, needed more than steady pitching as their batters failed time and time again to make contact with the baseball and when they did, their feeble attempts to manufacture runs more often than not were foiled by Saipan's strong defense.

Saipan tucked in three more runs in the third, fourth, and fifth innings while Tinian batters continued to struggle with the Gordian knot that was Iguel and his equally unhittable reliever Nakamura.

With the score at 7-0, Saipan needed at least three runs in the sixth to end the game via mercy rule—something the team did in victories in Games 1 and 2.

Saipan also didn't have to face Maui's heat this time, as he was lifted in favor of Cruz at the start of the fourth inning.

The problem for Tinian was Cruz was not as effective as Maui and it showed big time in the fateful sixth when Saipan scored four runs on two outs.

It started out when Duenas scored on an error by the Tinian shortstop then Anthony Salas and Richard Dela Cruz made it 10-0 on consecutive pass balls. The 11th run was then scored when the catcher failed to handle Cruz's throw, allowing Nakamura to reach home.

Nakamura himself delivered the coup de grace to Tinian when he shut down their batters in consecutive order in the bottom of the sixth.

He first forced Dennis Borja to ground out to second base then showed his power by striking out Christian Barcinas and Moses Untalan for the final two outs of the district tournament.

Saipan Junior All-Stars manager Vinnie Sablan gave his hat's off to Tinian for a well-played game that made the host team nervous until the four-run sixth inning.

"Unfortunately my plan for today for us to score a lot of runs didn't happen. There was not much hitting, especially in the early innings. But we pulled it off and I can't complain. We ended up scoring 11 runs in game, granted most of it came late in the game but we pulled it all off," he said.

For his part, Tinian manager Fred Omengkar congratulated Saipan for the win and wished them good luck in the Regionals.

"I thought we did pretty well today. Our starting pitcher was doing fine but they had too solid of a defense and they're pitcher was also strong. We tried to keep it close but they were just too strong for us. They just have more talent but we did try. Our starting pitcher was okay but our second pitcher forced a lot of plays and tried to pick off a lot runners and that led to a lot of mistakes. Our hope was to extend it to a seventh inning, but we just had too many mistakes in the sixth," he said.

PARADISE

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Smithereens.

Paradise In Cleats then held the score to 2-1 finishing out the overtime and taking home the league's perpetual trophy.

It was a sorry loss for Smithereens considering the team was the first to book a finals ticket last week. The team also was the first to score in the championship when a nifty pass by forward Maryana Gramlich resulted in a Nola Hix goal 20 minutes into the game.

Smithereens would hold onto a 1-0 lead until the 37-minute mark when Schultz let slip a rocket from 20 yards out that found the top right corner just pass the outstretched arms of Smithereens goalkeeper Maria Ornes.

The second half of the match then displayed the solid determination of both teams to prevent either side from scoring despite many shots taken by the teams, leading to the two 15-minute extensions.

In the battle for third, Wild Bill's Wild Fire's Lindsay Davis and Jamie Beavis scored in each of the halves to win second runner-up honors against Marianas Eye Spectacular Blues, 2-0.

In the first half, a pass from Patty Coleman to Davis resulted in a score by the latter. Wild Fire had another opportunity to score on a penalty kick resulting from a handball, but Davis' penalty kick went wide.

In the second half, Beavis found the back the net for Wild Fire and the team then played stout defense against Spectacular the rest of the way to win the contest.

After the championship game an awards ceremony was held with Women's Committee director Francine Sablan recognizing and thanking the Northern Mariana Islands Football Associaiton, sponsors, referees, and players for a great season.

Sablan also thanked the members of the Women's Committee, namely Coleman, Davis, Ornes, Becca Newman, and Vanesa Pritchard for their support in organizing another successful season.

"It was a wonderful season. I am so impressed by the performance and positive attitudes of the players," said Sablan.

NMIFA Executive Committee member Peter Coleman added that the NMIFA is very proud of the success of the Women's Football Program.

The coveted Fair Play Award for the team with the best sportsmanship was awarded to the the Eye Spectacular Blues.

After recognizing each player on the team, the team captains recognized their Most Improved and Most Inspirational players.

Most Improved players were Chantelle Voutilainen (PIC), Wendy Rider, (Smithereens), Angie Mister (Wild Fire), and Amber Roberts (Spectacular Blues).

Players that won the Most Inspirational awards were Nicolette Seckeler (PIC), Ornes (Smithereens), Shauna Brown (Wild Fire), and Becca Newman (Spectacular Blues).

Sablan added that new to the 2008 Women's Recreational Football League is the introduction of the perpetual trophy.

"Previous league champions from the past two years were included on the trophy and new champions, Paradise In Cleats, will be added to this notable list. The perpetual trophy will be held by the team's sponsor Pacific Islands Club along with a photo of the team at PIC until the the Fall 2008 season," she said.

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be held in the afternoon from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the American Memorial Park, where athletes will march from the Carolinian Affairs Office to the federal park.

Tebuteb said no less than Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will deliver the welcome remarks during the opening ceremony. OAA representative to IAAF Bill Bailey, OAA president Geoff Gardner, and Tebuteb himself will also speak during the event.

Island cultural welcoming presentations and an invitation-only dinner reception will then follow.

Official competition in the track and field events will commence the next three days, June 26, 27, and 28, at the Oleai Track and Field.

Two days before the start of the 2008 Oceania Championships, the island will also play host to the 2008 Oceania Grand Prix.

According to the OAA website, the Oceania Grand Prix squad of 41 athletes representing 12 member federations of Oceania Athletes will go against athletes from all of the 21 federations who will this year be competing at the Oceania Under 18 and Open Area Championships.

The management team for this year's Grand Prix are made up of Peter Wilson (Grand Prix director), Siniva Marsters (Grand Prix team manager), and Tierata Taukaban (Grand Prix coach).

Marsters is a previous Grand Prix team member, while Taukaban is an Oceania Athletic development officer based in Kiribati.

Korean Dreams add to Kabur's nightmares

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Korean Dreams had a parade of singles in the eighth inning that helped secure an 18-8 mercy run-shortened victory against hapless Kabur in the continuation of the 2008 Saipan Major League last Friday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Leading 14-7 in the top of eighth, Dreams pelted Kabur reliever Darwin Masaharu with four singles that drove in three runs to give them an 11-run lead.

Shane Mendiola reached first base on a single then advanced to scoring position on a fielder's choice that threw out Harland Reyes.

Mendiola then scored on a base hit by Jason Reyes, who in turn crossed home plate on a hit by Roland Kapileo. Thomas Joab then gave Dreams three runs in the inning when he singled Kapileo. Joab gave Dreams four runs in the inning when he took advantage of an error.

After his heroics from the plate, Mendiola made sure the 10-run mercy rule applied when he finished off the Kabur batters in the bottom of the eighth.

He first induced Efrain Hector to hit the baseball toward second baseman Justin Reyes who threw the Kabur runner out on a relay to first baseman Mario San Nicolas.

Mendiola was a bit shaky when he faced the next three batters, surrendering three consecutive singles that eventually brought home Poland Masaharu on an RBI by Darwin Masaharu.

He, however, made up for that when he recorded his 10th strikeout for the second out of the game. The match ended when third baseman Joe Borja gunned down Darwin Masaharu with a perfect relay throw to Reyes.

MARK RABAGO
Korean Dreams' Noboyu Otta awaits the pitch from Kabur's Darwin Masaharu in their 2008 Saipan Major League game last Friday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Kabur actually started like a house on fire, chasing Dreams starting pitcher Mario San Nicolas from the mound with five runs in the first inning.

That forced Dreams to play catch-up and only came within a run when San Nicolas himself scored Jordan Reyes in the fourth to make it 5-6.

Dreams would take control in the next inning, when singles by their batters and errors by the Kabur battery allowed the former to more than double its runs and take an 11-6 lead.

Three more runs in the 6th inning made it 14-5 before Kabur answered meekly with a run in the seventh, which set up Dreams' four-run eighth.

The victory allowed Dreams to improved its record to 6-5, while the loss was the 10th in 12 outings for Kabur.

Mendiola pitched seven strong innings, allowing only two runs on three hits, while being assessed an error and five walks on top of the aforementioned 10 strikeouts.

Batting leader John Reyes continued to do wonders from the plate, going 2-for-4 with two RBIs. Joab went 3-for-4 and scored three runs, while Borja and Mendola combined for 6-for-9 with four RBIs.

'CNMI netters can take 6-8 slots in North Pacific Team'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

CNMI National Tennis coach Jeff Race expects the islands to take at least six slots in the North Pacific Team this year which qualifier is set from June 16 to 20 in Guam.

Fourteen of the Commonwealth's top junior netters will fly to the U.S. territory on June 15 for the North Pacific Qualifier, whose Top 3 finishers in the boys' and girls 18-and-under and boys' and girls' 13-and-under advance to the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Lautoka, Fiji, next month.

Race said there was a change in the NPQ this year as instead of the Top 2, the Top 3 finishers (maximum two from any country) will be on the team.

"So 12 players will travel to Fiji from the North instead of eight. This will open things up a bit for the less experienced girls to have a shot. Bottom line—we will probably have at least six on the NP Team this year and could get seven or possibly eight.

The local bets in the boys' 18-and-under are Russell Buenaventura, James Camacho, Benjie Decena, and Woo Suk Chang.

Mayuko Arriola, Dina Jones, and Theecel Minor, meanwhile, represent the CNMI's best hopes in the girls' 18-and-under.

Rafael Jones, Christian Miller, Jake Lee, and Daniel Camacho will compete in the boys' 13-and-under, while Thea Minor, Amy Arenovski, and Jean Bracken will see action in the girls' 13-and-under.

"I expect our boys' 18s and 13s to all place highly in their events. Mayuko and Thea are the favorites to win their events. Dina, Theecel, and Amy are all possibilities but will have to really have good performances to make the North Pacific Team," said Race.

Individually, he said Camacho seems to be a hair ahead as the favorite in the boys' 18-and-under, as he beat Buenaventura in three sets in the 2008 DFS Micronesian Tennis Championships last month.

Arriola, meanwhile, is in fine form and has especially improved in her mental strength, according to Race.

"She will win the girls if healthy. Alea Dugan from Guam will be her competition. Dina or Theecel could finish in the money list if they play well and get a good draw. Most likely Raffy Jones has the edge going in the 13s. He has been working the hardest and is confident after his DFS win when he beat Jake and Chrisitan in straight sets. But these three are really close and anything could happen. Daniel isn't far behind them. I expect them to finish 1-4," he said.

If that scenario happens only two of them can go and the organizers will have to go down to the No. 5 finisher for the next NP Team member. "So this will be a dogfight," said Race.

"Thea will totally dominate the 13s and Amy may finish in the Top 3 if she plays well. Jean Bracken is our least experienced player, but she got a great attitude and a lot of promise. This level of competition should help her raise her game and give her some goals to shoot for next year," he added.

The islands' top junior player, Ji Hoon Heo, already has an automatic entry on the North Pacific Team this year and so will not play the NPQ, but instead head to Fiji then to New Caledonia for an ITF event, said Race.

Braig, Cole top final 2008 Kids XTEARRA

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Maxi Braig swept all three races in the 10-and-under division, while Cole Chambers won his first race in the 8-and-under as the 2008 Kids XTEARRA season held its final race yesterday in Marpi.

Braig led all way in the swim, bike, and run portions of the 10-and-under age group, crossing the finish line with a time of 13:40. The win allowed the son of Commonwealth Health Center physician and triathlete Dr. Florian Braig to finish the first season of Kids XTEARRA undefeated.

Finishing second in the 10-and-under was Masaki Cramer with a time of 15:27. While his swim split was a bit slower than his previous best (5:03), he saved his energy for nice improvements in his bike (6:37) and run (3:37) with drops of six and 17 seconds, respectively.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Masaki Cramer, Maxi Braig, Steven Goodwin, and Cole Chambers pose with their medals following yesterday's final 2008 Kids XTEARRA season of the spring. Also in photo is one of the kids' dog.

Sporting his new Giant bike, which was the envy of the crowd, Chambers enjoyed his first win of the Kids XTEARRA season.

His time of 9:45 was seconds better than his last race. His big improvement was in the swim, dropping 26 seconds from 3:31 to 3:05. His new bike also proved helpful as he dropped his time to 4:03. He, like Big Brown backed down on the backstretch of the run, but had the race well in hand, closing with a 2:37 in the run.

Finishing second to Chambers was Steven Goodwin with a time of 10:40. Goodwin's big improvement was on his bike, where he dropped seven seconds. Goodwin went on to register splits of 3:41 in the win, 4:28 in the bike, and 2:31 in the run.

All set for Tinian triathlon and reef swim

The 9th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon & Reef Swim will be held this Saturday, June 14, on the beautiful island of Tinian.

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, the island's signature sporting event will unfold off scenic Taga Beach.

The vigorous and challenging triathlon course starts with a 1.5-kilometer swim and transitions into an extreme 40-km biking experience. The event finishes with a brisk 10-km run.

The weekend sporting extravaganza also returns with the always spectacular Reef Swim this year and like previous editions, organizers will be offering two types of categories—type A which is a 1.5-km swim and type B which is a 3-km swim.

Representatives from Kaike Triathlon and members of the KFC Triathlon Club of Japan already have signed up for the 9th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon & Reef Swim.

Registration fee for the solo triathlon is $80, while for the team each member needs to pay $60, which is the same amount for the reef swim. Payments are accepted on cash basis only and the final day of payment can be made on Tinian on June 13.

The entrance fee includes an event T-shirt, swim cap, and dinner for the awards party at 6pm at the Taga Beach. The final day of registration will be on June 13 from 5pm to 8pm at the poolside of the Tinian Dynasty.

A pre-race briefing will also be held on June 13 from 6pm to 7pm also at the poolside.

Those interested can pick up an application form at the MVA office from 8am to 5pm. Participants will receive a T-shirt along with an invitation to the awards banquet.

The annual triathlon is supported by the Tinian Mayor's Office, KFC Triathlon Club of Japan, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, and MVA.

For more information about the 9th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon & Reef Swim, call Frank Tudela or Edward Diaz at 664-3200 or e-mail at ediaz@mymarianas.com or ftudela@mymarianas.com

MVA Tinian's Benedicta Borja can also be reached at 433-9365, while those in Japan can contact Kiyokazu Onishi of KFC Triathlon Club Japan at 81-428-31-4911 or kfc-onishi@gem.hi-ho.ne.jp. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Korean Dreams add to Kabur's nightmares

Korean Dreams had a parade of singles in the eighth inning that helped secure an 18-8 mercy run-shortened victory against hapless Kabur in the continuation of the 2008 Saipan Major League. 27

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Da' Tara spoils Big Brown's bid for Triple Crown

When Big Brown turned for home, something wasn't right. Jockey Kent Desormeaux knew the big bay colt was finished. Trainer Rick Dutrow Jr., who guaranteed racing's first Triple Crown in 30 years, knew it, too. 24

Saipan Junior All-Stars advance to Regionals

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Saipan Junior All-Stars made it 3-for-3 against their counterparts from Tinian and advanced to the 2008 Asia-Pacific Junior League Tournament with an 11-0 shutout win yesterday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

The final score, however, was not indicative of the pitching duel that transpired in the first three innings of the championship game.

MARK RABAGO

The Saipan Junior League All-Stars are all smiles after beating Tinian in the championship, 10-0, yesterday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field. Joining the CNMI District Tournament champions are Little League officials led by District Administrator James Ada, right.

After crushing Tinian Junior All-Stars, 36-7, in the first two games Saturday, Saipan batters groped for form against Tinian starter Deville Maui, who blanked the usually high-scoring team in the first inning.

Saipan starter Lamarc Iguel was also dominating from the mound, recording three strikeouts in the first inning.

Saipan's bats finally made some noise in the second when Peter Tenorio scored Harry Nakamura for the championship's first run.

Tenorio and Rocco Reyes then crossed home plate on a single by Diego Camacho, who in turn scored on a sacrifice fly by McGarrett Duenas.

Despite giving up four plate-crossings, Maui was still in the game and also had some fine moments in the second—he struck out Jesse Yamagishi and ended the inning when he induced Anthony Salas to ground-

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Ivanovic beats Safina for her first Grand Slam

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP TENNIS WRITER

At last, Ana Ivanovic overcame her stage fright. In two previous major finals, Ivanovic was so overwhelmed by the setting, so shaken by the stakes, that her focus fell apart and her shots went awry. Not on this day.

Already assured of rising to No. 1 in the rankings for the first time, Ivanovic collected Grand Slam title No. 1 by beating Dinara Safina 6-4, 6-3 in the French Open final Saturday.

Rather than erasing the memories of those lopsided losses in championship matches against Justine Henin at Roland Garros a year ago and against Maria Sharapova at the Australian Open in January, Ivanovic used the bitterness to help her.

"Many, many people ask me, 'Oh, you want to forget last year's final?' But I don't, because it was a great learning experience," said Ivanovic, a 20-year-old from Serbia.

She won only three games against Henin, then eight against Sharapova, and said of the latter defeat: "I had a few sleepless nights after that."

But in the months since, Ivanovic realized this: Part of her difficulty in those matches rested with either looking ahead—"Hey, maybe I can actually win this thing," she was thinking against Henin—or looking behind—failing to put a few key points out of her mind against Sharapova.

Ivanovic lost two consecutive matches on clay before coming to Paris, and she knew she had to change something. She credits her strength and conditioning coach, Scott Byrnes, with helping find what she called a "tool" to make sure she stays focused on the court.

And it couldn't be simpler: Take the time to pause and breathe.

"My personality is I tend too much to think about what will be, and try to think too much in advance, which is definitely not too good," Ivanovic said. "So I found that breathing helps me to go back in a moment and just enjoy that very moment."

That's what carried her through the tightest of times against the 13th-seeded Safina, the younger sister of two-time major champion Marat Safin.

In the men's final Sunday, No. 1 Roger Federer will meet No. 2 Rafael Nadal in their third consecutive title match at Roland Garros. Nadal seeks a fourth French Open championship, and Federer is hoping to complete a career Grand Slam.

Ivanovic was a point from taking a 5-1 lead in the first set when Safina showed some spark, using a running forehand winner and a swinging volley winner to get to break point. Ivanovic then dumped a forehand into the net, and 10 minutes later, when Safina smacked a backhand winner down the line, suddenly the

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AP

Serbia's Ana Ivanovic holds up the trophy after defeating Russia's Dinara Safina during the women's final at the French Open tennis tournament in Paris on Saturday June 7, 2008.

Paradise In Cleats win 2008 women's league

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Pacific Islands Club's Paradise In Cleats captain Brenda Schultz booted her team to the championship of the 2008 Women's Recreational Spring Football League after scoring the marginal goal in overtime against Matt Smith's Smithereens last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

After both teams finished the 80-minute game all tied up at 1-1, Shultz found the back of the net following a strong penalty kick in the five-minute mark of the first 15-minute overtime.

MARK RABAGO

A Pacific Islands Club's Paradise In Cleats' Meaghan Hassel-Shearer attempts a penalty kick against a line of Matt Smith's Smithereens defenders in the championship of the 2008 Women's Recreational Spring Football League last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

It was Schultz's second goal of the game.

In the second 15-minute extension, a major offensive attempt was made by the Smithereens as they surged past the PIC defense and were well within the 18-yard line before a gutsy save by PIC's Noi Horey thwarted the near scoring of the

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All set for 2008 Oceania Championships

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Preparations are in full swing for the 2008 Oceania Championships set here on Saipan at the end of the month.

According to Rep. Ramon Tebuteb, chairman of the local organizing committee, over 300 athletes from the 21 member federations of Oceania Athletics Association will descend to the CNMI for the event that will be from June 25 to 28.

Tebuteb

The 2008 Oceania Championship will start with cross country competition set for June 25, 6am at the sprawling Laolao Bay Golf Resort in Kagman.

The opening ceremony will

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